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SUB may axe company products

by Lorna Mace

The UVSS Environmental Education Committee would like to stop supporting Weyerhaeuser, a company often criticized for their unsustainable, ecologically damaging logging practices.

Through the many copy services at UVic, in particular ZAP, students have been using paper supplied by Weyerhaeuser, a company which has been charged with toxic dumping, destroying endangered species habitat and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and B.C. Forest Practice Code violations in the past.

The UVSS, through the Environmental Education Committee, is in the process of finding other paper companies that can boast sustainable and legal logging practices in their paper production, without the use of chlorine compounds and other toxins.

"Getting rid of Weyerhaeuser paper products in the SUB could set a precedent on campus and in the local community to move towards paper products that are not from old growth forests," said Sarah Webb, UVSS Director of Academics.

According to Ken Wu, Campaign Director for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), the 1999 takeover of MacMillan Bloedel by Weyerhaeuser was detrimental for British Columbia. Weyerhaeuser is now in the process of logging the Mint Valley, Cathedral Grove and upper Walbran Valley.

"We're basically fighting Weyerhaeuser," said Wu. "They are the only [logging] company in B.C. that's been convicted for violating the Forest Practices Code."

During the 1999 switch Weyerhaeuser released a pamphlet, "Forestry with a Difference," outlining their intention to continue MacMillan Bloedel's plans to phase out clear cutting and move into selective logging.

"Most of our woodland operations are certified," said Neil Malbon, Weyerhaeuser employee at the Alberni Forest Information Center.

Weyerhaeuser may be practicing progressive forestry methods but they are still lacking some more important choices such as rate of cut and the areas in which they're choosing to log, said Wu.

As a logging company, Weyerhaeuser is the world's largest private landowner. This means that after logging the site it can make all the decisions for the future development of the area.

According to a WCWC 1999 fact sheet, "In addition to their logging, lumber and paper production activities, Weyerhaeuser is also a major land developer in the United States. Much of their privately owned forests in Washington and Oregon are now, after extensive clear-cutting, being converted to subdivisions."

Although the project is just in the investigative stages, Webb feels confident that the SUB can set a good example for both the university and the Canadian Federation of Students.

"Then we can say, 'Look, we stopped doing this because of really good reasons. Now it's your turn'," she said.

But finding a paper company with sustainable logging practices and non-chlorinated treatments is more difficult than first thought.

Although companies like that are out there they may be too small to supply a demand as great as that of the SUB.

"We found three companies so far. One of which is [using] unbleached paper, called 'Reach for Unbleached'," she said.

Produced from 80 per cent recycled fibers, "Reach for Unbleached" is produced by a paper cooperative in partnership with B.C.'s "Paper Choice Environmental Papers."

"We are a non-profit organization focused on developing a sustainable pulp and paper industry by reducing pulp mill pollution, and particularly interested in getting chlorine out of the paper-making process," said Nicole Polson, the company's representative.

The other 20 per cent of the paper (the non-recycled portion) is taken from virgin Swedish woodlots that are renowned for their progressive, sustainable logging practices.

"These logging practices have probably set the world standard," said Polson.

Webb also looked into buying hemp paper as an alternative but stopped because hemp paper is expensive.

"Our mandate is to offers services that are affordable," said Webb. "So it's still got to present a business case – it's still got to have seven cent copies."

Although the SUB will still offer the option of Weyerhaeuser paper the UVSS is hoping that, after finding a suitable company, they can present environmentally conscious solutions.

"At the same time [as offering Weyerhaeuser products] we can still offer other solutions for students wanting to access paper that isn't necessarily brought by a company who's destroying parts of our island right now," said Webb.

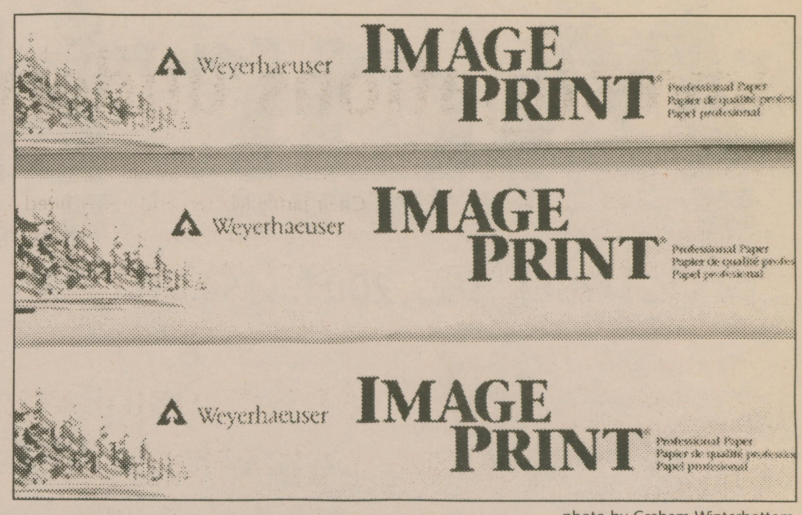

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Weyerhauser paper products may soon disappear from Zap.

Computer lab line-ups cause headaches for busy students

by Jeff Werner

As fall term classes approach mid-way at UVic so do the deadlines for assignments and the thousands of students who use the campus computer labs to complete them.

Of a dozen students polled waiting in line-ups at the university's busiest lab in the Clearihue building, all felt regular computer access is essential to get good grades at UVic. They also said this access, such as the number of individual units in a lab, should be increased to meet the student demand.

Sarah Stillman, an English major in her fifth year and a daily Clearihue user, thinks UVic could do more.

"I think they [the university] should increase the number of computers definitely," said Stillmen, as she and more than 10 other students wait patiently for a workstation.

In addition to her studies, Stillman also works for the university and checks her shifting schedule online. She says UVic's computer service, which is available to every registered student, is essential.

"You need email, you need the Internet. It is a handicap if you don't use a computer," said Stillman.

Clearihue, along with the other two all-access labs on campus in the Business and Economics building and the Human and Social Development building, have a total of about 550 computers for a student population of over 17,000. The Clearihue building has the busiest and the largest lab with 244 Mac and IBM-compatible work stations, said the lab's co-ordinator, Divani Geditz.

Despite the demand, Geditz said her lab's first priority is to provide computer time to instructors and their classes with regular bookings in the upper-floor rooms where the units are among the most up-to-date on campus. She also said the financial survival of the Clearihue lab depends on the bookings, which are covered in the university's budget.

> Even though they [professors] sometimes try to make it out like you can get by without a computer, I think the more computer access the better.
>
> *Cassie Bluhm*

Despite the consistently long line-ups in Clearihue every weekday, students like Stillman acknowledge that the university is adequately coping with the demand.

"I think they've done the best job they can so far," said Stillman.

The majority of UVic's computer funding is used to pay the hired staff in the labs and to maintain and monitor the equipment, said Art Brett, manager of UVic's Computer User Services.

"If there were more money available I'd put it into updating the outdated equipment," said Brett. He cited the current university tuition freeze in B.C. as one of the factors for the delay in increasing the number of labs at UVic.

"It'd be nice to have no computers over two years old," said Brett. He also said one-fifth of UVic's 550 general-access computers are more than six years old.

Cassie Bluhm is in her first year of writing and agrees with other students that the university's supply of computers is "OK for now."

"I have a bunch of friends that use them all the time and I never hear them complaining," said Bluhm. "However, a school this big can never have enough."

A student's success depends on using a computer because so many classes refer to information from the Internet and almost everything needs to be typed and printed, said Bluhm, echoing a common student sentiment.

"Even though they [professors] sometimes try to make it out like you can get by without a computer, I think the more computer access the better."

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Investigations underway in student society cash crisis

by Darren Stewart

The University of Victoria Student's Society discovered that it is missing hundreds of thousands of dollars after receiving results of a routine audit of last year's budget on Oct. 4. The society suspects foul play and the Saanich Police assigned an investigator to the case.

A routine audit of UVSS books showed a whopping $316,000 deficit from last fiscal year, said UVSS Director of Finance Jonas Gifford. The pre-audit budget showed a surplus of $41,000. Gifford said the society is still finalizing the numbers and it's too early to tell exactly how much money is missing.

The society will conduct a forensic audit of financial activity in the SUB and hope to quickly discover what happened to the missing money. They said they are not suspicious about any current SUB managers or permanent employees.

"At this point we are not set to point fingers," said SUB General Manager Doug Ausman. "That will come out in due course."

Ausman, as well as Gifford, UVSS Chair Jamie Matten and newly hired SUB Businesses Operations Director Jim Gibson met with former operations director Vivek Sharma immediately after the discovery.

> At this point we are not set to point fingers. That will come out in due course.
>
> *Doug Ausman, SUB General Manager*

"He provided us with a variety of different explanations, none of which were satisfactory," said Ausman. "We decided the next day that an investigation would be appropriate."

Sharma had been the UVSS operations manager since May 2000 when he left his job as Vertigo manager to manage SUB finances. He quit as operations director in September, telling the executive he planned to move to Europe to find work.

Matten said it's too early to speculate on where the money could have gone.

"We don't want to get into the specifics at this point," she said. "It could have been a million different things. The investigations are under way and we'll know soon enough where the problems are."

Gifford tabled a new temporary budget at an emergency board meeting Tuesday night. The society originally budgeted for a surplus of over $90,000 for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, but are now projecting a $30,000 deficit. Society policy states that the UVSS must run at least a three per cent surplus but Gifford said he had no choice but to run this budget.

"If we had this information six months ago we would have had no problem coming up with a surplus," Gifford said.

"We have every hope that we're going to do better than that but at this time we can't specify how. We can't put that on paper."

Matten added that the numbers in the budget were the best the society executive could do in such short notice, given that it only found out about the financial crisis 10 days ago. Matten said they had to come up with something for Thursday's AGM.

"We have to be up front about this," she said.

The society voted in favour of adopting the budget at Tuesday's meeting. Director at Large Adam Peters was the only board member to vote against the new budget, citing the fact that neither he, nor any students, had an opportunity to give input for the budget.

"In approaching this I have to say I have complete faith in the executive," he said. "But it's my responsibility as a director to check up on them."

The Board of Directors and administrative budgets were in the black last year and it was only the business operations budget, which includes finances for all businesses in the SUB, that showed unexpected low numbers after the audit. The biggest differences in expected figures were in the food services, Felicitas and Subtext budgets.

Gibson, who took over for Sharma earlier this month, is charged with the enormous responsibility of getting the SUB's finances back in order.

"It's been an interesting initiation," he said. "We have to go forward and rebuild this house that has fallen down."

Gibson is set to make SUB-based businesses more secure and efficient immediately and said he won't be idle while the investigation is going on.

Because of the shortfall most upcoming shows at Vertigo have been cancelled and SUB businesses may have to impose modest price increases, said Ausman.

Members of the UVSS said they plan to make results of the investigation public when they have some answers.

Health and education funding frozen leaving province in cold

by Ben Hadaway

Government critics fear for the future of advanced education in British Columbia after the Liberal government's recent announcement to temporarily freeze health and education funding.

"In the last election Gordon Campbell promised to protect health care and education," said New Democrat MLA Jenny Kwan, "Where are his promises now?"

The Liberal budget doesn't account for inflation, population growth and increased demand on both the education and healthcare systems said Kwan.

"Budget freezing, without a doubt, means a reduction in services," she said.

Kwan added that a frozen budget for advanced-education puts more pressure on the student, and means less access to advanced education, particularly for low income students.

Yearly growth in expenses without a corresponding increase in funding from the government has members of the university community denouncing the freeze as a cut and fearing that students may pay for it.

> Tax cuts won't work to immediately stimulate the economy. And who pays for the tax cuts to the wealthiest British Columbians and corporations? Seniors, students.
>
> *Jenny Kwan, New Democrat MLA*

"In essence it acts as a cut," said UVSS Chair Jaime Matten. She added that students will feel the freeze through an increase in tuition fees, as the Liberal Government is poised to lift the freeze on tuition when it expires on March 31, 2002.

"Students will feel these hits the hardest," she said. "The problem is not specific to B.C., but previously we have been shielded by tuition freezes – now this will be detrimental to students and potential students in B.C."

David Clode, Executive Director of Student and Ancillary Services at UVic, said that letting tuition rise will not be the solution to the funding freeze, but an increase in course and ancillary fees is "a natural thing to consider."

He said that the government and the university must work as partners to find "at which point the consumer has paid too much or not enough."

"We don't want to let tuition become a barrier to entering post-secondary education," Clode said. "Anyone who is intellectually capable should be admissible."

Sheila Orr, Liberal MLA Victoria-Hillside, maintains that the government is upholding its campaign promise not to cut funding to health care and education.

"We have always said that there would be more money for health care and education over time," she said. "I cannot say how fast that would be given the current economic situation."

The Liberal Government's New Era for British Columbia website outlines their election promises and states, "A BC Liberal Government will: Maintain and increase education funding levels by increasing revenues through economic growth."

But opponents blame the government's massive personal and corporate income tax cuts for the current freeze and say that it won't be enough to stimulate the economy and put money back into education and health care budgets.

"Tax cuts won't work to immediately stimulate the economy," said Kwan. "And who pays for the tax cuts to the wealthiest British Columbians and corporations? Seniors, students."

The province's lagging health care system may feel the freeze especially hard as a greater number of citizens reach old age and become more dependent on health care. This year health spending consumes $9.5 billion of B.C.'s $21 billion budget, 13 per cent more than 2000/01.

Between the 1999/00 and 2000/01 school years, the UVic has seen it's general operating expenditures increase $4,291,000, or 2.7 per cent, and it's undergraduate student population rise to 15,504 students (from 14,984).

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Loss of upwind buffer will jeopardize Cathedral Grove

by Brodie Waddell

Weyerhaeuser may soon send work crews to the Cameron Lake area near Port Alberni to begin logging Cathedral Grove.

"Only a small portion of the valley is protected," said Ken Wu of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, "Some of the largest trees are outside the park's boundaries."

The environmental group wants the provincial government to expand the park to four times its present size which would include a large swath of crown lands on the north side of Cameron Lake and another large section to the south presently owned by Weyerhaeuser.

According to Richard Broyce, a local master woodsman, the grove needs a minimum of 200 more hectares protected from logging.

"Without this buffer upwind the ancient trees can't survive against the hurricane force 'Qualicum Winds' that blow through the valley every few years," Broyce said.

> Without this buffer upwind the ancient trees can't survive against the hurricane force "Qualicum Winds" that blow through the valley every few years.
>
> *Richard Broyce*

Environmentalists concerned with the operations have continued efforts to make people aware of the possible effects on Cathedral Grove that adjacent logging would have.

"We are concentrating on media work and organizing," Wu said, "We'll demonstrate too if necessary, but we're not right now."

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection spokesman Alex Debrowski said he is unconcerned with the logging proposal.

"Our Parks people are aware [of the logging]," said the Ministry's Alex Debrowski. "But we don't think it will have any affect on the park as it is over 1.5 km away from the boundary."

Debrowski added that in cases where the land is privately owned the Ministry will try to convince the owners to leave buffer areas adjacent to the park alone.

The Wilderness Committee recently declared a victory in their battle to overturn a government proposal to build a 200 car parking lot that would have required a two hectare clear-cut upwind of the park's oldest trees.

To environmentalists this is a sign that their strategy of extensive public awareness campaigns may well lead to more successes in the future.

graphic by Joanna Wong

Raising awareness of issues faced by disabled students

by Adeline Huynh

Several members of UVic's Society for Students with a Disability (SSD) feel that the biggest hurdle for disabled students is no longer physical but psychological.

Fay Gray, an active member since 1999, said that physical accessibility and academic inclusion have been largely dealt with on campus, but the remaining problem is still public attitude.

"People who don't have disabilities do not know how to deal with them," Gray said. "[So they] quite often do not know how to deal with people who have them."

Gray describes this attitude as "self-imposed ignorance" and cites a friend's experience to illustrate. The friend, who is legally blind, arrived on campus for a night class only to discover that the class had been temporarily moved. The note that the professor had left was not in large print so the student could not make out where the class had been moved to, nor did the professor think to send someone to escort the student to the new classroom.

"This was a student that never missed a class, that always sat in the front of the classroom and that the professor knew was legally blind," Gray said. "Yet no accommodations were made to make the class accessible to her."

According to Gray, students with invisible disabilities face even more challenges when it comes to attitudes around campus. She said she is a type-1 diabetic and needs regular shots of insulin. Gray's diabetes also causes vision loss, kidney impairment and a lowered immune system.

Gray said that the hidden nature of her disability makes it more difficult to gain access to academic accommodations. UVic's Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities requires extensive medical documentation from students that request accommodation, a fact that is stated in their "Policy and Procedural Guidelines."

Sherri Howell, a member of the SSD since 1993, was born with Spinabifida and requires the use of a wheelchair. She counts herself lucky that she does not have to deal with extensive medical documentation because her disability is visible.

"[If] someone is in a wheelchair you see it," Howell said. "Obviously they need an electronic door or a ramp."

Gray added that the best way to change the attitudes of students and staff on campus is by raising awareness.

"If you don't get the 'what,' and the 'why,' then we won't get the 'how can we help,'" Gray said.

Providing the what and the why, is the purpose of Disability Awareness Days (DAD) an annual day of activities in the third week of February focused on raising awareness through panel discussions and disability simulations. These events have led university administration to make changes to buildings and to address other environmental needs of students with disabilities.

However, Gray would like to see this interest in disability issues extended beyond a few days a year. The SSD is in need of everyday support just to keep the SDD office, located in the Student Union Building across from Cinecentre, open.

"We're always open to membership from both students with disabilities and for students without disabilities," Gray said.

Howell added that non-disabled members of the SSD are few because students are too busy to extend themselves and worry about SSD issues.

"Until they experience it for themselves and hit that uncut curb with a broken leg, they just don't seem to understand," Howell said.

In an attempt to make the SSD a more social and interactive place they're conducting a survey for UVic students about the society and students with a disability. Pick up the survey in the SSD office in SUB B102.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Sheri Howell (L) and Veronika Muendel make use of the resource centre.

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Student groups fight to keep auto insurance public

by Tim Shuff

Students could be paying a lot more to insure their cars if the Liberal government follows through on its plan to allow private companies to compete with ICBC.

While lobby groups argue over what's best for consumers, it is clear that young drivers would be particularly hard hit by the Liberal plan to end ICBC's 28-year monopoly on basic coverage.

"Students who are trying to make ends meet as it is are just going to be dinged in another spot," said UVSS chairperson Jaime Matten.

Finance Minister Gary Collins was not available to comment on the Liberals' latest plans, but the party's policy clearly sets the stage for privatization.

Doug McClelland, ICBC spokesperson, said that the first step will come within the next few months when ICBC's board meets with government to discuss different options.

Meanwhile, the B.C. Coalition for Private Auto Insurance, an insurance industry lobby group, is trying to convince the government and the public that privatization is good for the consumer and that anything that brings us closer to a free-market economy is good for everyone.

"If the British Columbia economy needs anything it's an infusion of private-sector jobs and private-sector capital," said Dennis Prouse from the insurance coalition.

Groups like the Consumer's Association of Canada (CACBC) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) are not convinced, mostly because privatization would translate into higher premiums for many drivers.

In September the CACBC released a study comparing insurance rates in Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto.

"There is no case shown to us for privatization," said Bruce Cran, CACBC president.

Most young drivers or their families would experience premium increases of 100 per cent or more under a private system, said Cran.

> We believe that you shouldn't penalize an entire demographic category because of the actions of a few.
> *Anita Zaenker*

Although Prouse recommends that students go on-line and compare insurance rates for themselves, the results don't look good for private insurance. An Internet search found that a 20-year-old driver with a perfect record paying $1000 in Victoria would pay at least 95 per cent more for private insurance in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and 66 per cent more in Hamilton, Ontario. If the driver were male, he would pay 340 per cent more ($4400) in Halifax, and 117 per cent more in Hamilton.

ICBC, a non-profit crown corporation, bases insurance rates on driving experience, not age, sex, or marital status. But supporters of private insurance argue that the higher rates in privately-insured provinces reflect the statistic reality that young male drivers have more accidents.

"Age and gender are pretty reliable indicators of risk," said Prouse.

The Liberal position has support from the BC Marijuana Party, whose leader Marc Emery said, "Young people should pay more for their insurance because actuarially they're more likely to cause an accident."

The CFS disagrees.

"We believe that you shouldn't penalize an entire demographic category because of the actions of a few," said spokesperson Anita Zaenker. "People's rates should be based on their driving record. Because all drivers in B.C. are treated equally based on their driving experience, lower-risk demographic groups essentially end up sharing the costs of others, like students and seniors, who are statistically riskier to insure and who, coincidentally, tend to have lower incomes."

Students have to decide whether they'd rather pay higher premiums now or later, and whether the public interest is best served by a non-profit or a competitive system.

"In the end it all comes out the same in theory," said ICBC's McClelland. "There are different ways to achieve the same ends." Private insurers claim that privatization would have far-reaching economic benefits, while consumer groups are concerned that insurance multinationals will "cream the market" and funnel money and jobs out of B.C. at the public's expense. One reason not to take this issue lightly, according to a recent study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, is that if B.C. decides to privatize auto insurance, NAFTA and WTO trade agreements would forbid returning to a public, non-profit insurance system. This is another reason student organizations are encouraging students to voice their opinions before it's too late.

"If we're opposed to this, we should make it clear now," said Zaenker, who suggests that students write letters to the government or sign anti-privatization postcards, which are available at the UVSS resource centre.

photo by Ben Isitt

Social work professor Mehmoona Moosa-Mitha joins in a "Speak Out on Racism and Anti-Militarization: Making the Links," held outside the SUB on Oct. 12. Over 100 students attended the event, which was organized by the newly formed Anti-Racist Action Committee, a group of students and faculty who seek to bring alternative perspectives to the campus community. Speak outs will take place every Friday.

Axworthy calls for international court to deal with terrorism

by Simon Glezos

The world needs a more effective system of international law, said Lloyd Axworthy, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the UVic university club last Saturday night.

His talk called for national governments to ratify the Rome Statute, a UN resolution that requires for the establishment of an International Criminal Court.

In the impassioned speech, Axworthy called the original passing of the Rome Statute as "an incredible expression of the belief...of the majority of nations of the world that the time had come to create a brand new institution to hold people accountable for individual crimes."

The International Criminal Court (ICC) would allow for the prosecution of crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, where national judicial systems are unable or unwilling to investigate. To date it has been ratified by 42 of the 60 countries necessary to establish the court.

The speech, as would be expected, drew on the events of September 11 to demonstrate the need of such an institution.

"If there is now a common humanity, it is because we are now confronted with a loss of that most fundamental human freedom, freedom from fear."

Axworthy raised the influence of the Canadian delegation on the passing of the resolution and called for continued Canadian pressure for the establishment of the ICC.

> We can't draw the agenda through a telescope. We can't say this new coalition is simply a posse after a bandit. There's a much broader set of blueprints that have to be drawn.
> *Lloyd Axworthy*

"We can't draw the agenda through a telescope. We can't say this new coalition is simply a posse after a bandit. There's a much broader set of blueprints that have to be drawn. And that includes saying that if we are going to be members of a coalition then we want to have this coalition be fully endorsing of an international legal system that will hold people accountable," he said.

The speech came just days after the passing of a US congressional bill, which will deny US aid to any country that ratified the Rome Statute.

Axworthy strongly attacked this effort.

"How when you are trying to build a citadel of reason and rule of law, that will hold people accountable, that will show that civilization is based upon these rules, can you say 'we're going to punish anybody who tries to put that law in place'," he said.

Though hesitant to comment on the Bush administration's decision to initiate military action in Afghanistan, Axworthy was explicit that a military response "by itself, standing alone, simply isn't sufficient reason to really battle terrorism." He called instead for a program of international aid and institutional law.

He also expressed concern over the supposed aid accompanying the US bombings, saying that it was "simply not the answer" to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Axworthy's speech was given as a part of the World Federalists of Canada's 50th anniversary banquet, where Axworthy was the recipient of the organization's annual 'World Peace Award.' The prize was awarded by B.C. Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Iona Campagnolo.

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BC Transit in financial trouble

by Loren Mullane

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission has postponed approval of a possible fare increase until next month.

BC Transit asked the commission at its Oct. 9 public meeting to approve a fare increase to cover a projected deficit of 1.6 million dollars for the next fiscal year. The commission was asked by BC Transit to choose between two options which both included a 15-cent fare increase and a proportional increase of all bus passes, with the exception of the U-Pass.

The first option would maintain the current service level while the second option would modestly increase service by 1.5 per cent, with BC Transit expecting the cost of the expanded service to cover itself with increased ridership.

The commission's newly appointed chair, David McLean, requested delaying approval until the Commission's next meeting on Nov. 13, so he and two other new appointees could have more time to become familiar with how BC Transit is funded. McLean, a Victoria counselor, Oak Bay Mayor Chris Causton, and Saanich Counselor Jack Ngai were appointed last month by the new provincial government.

McLean asked BC Transit to study a third option where a fare increase could be avoided by cutting administrative costs within the company instead.

McLean said he believed that the modest service expansion and unchanged fares could be possible from internal cost savings.

City Councillor Rob Fleming, who was one of the former commission members replaced by the new appointees, said that although administrative cuts should be looked at before a fare increase he doubted enough savings would be found.

"I don't think that BC Transit in Victoria is top heavy," Fleming said.

Fleming added that a better option would be to convince the provincial government to increase the local gas tax. Currently the local gas tax provides 14 per cent of BC Transit's operating cost taxing local drivers 2.5 cents per litre at area gas stations.

"A one to two cent a litre increased gas tax, phased in, would have been enough to avoid service cuts and sustain three per cent service increases [every year], and avoid an increase in fares," Fleming said.

At the commission's Sept. 11 meeting before Fleming was removed, the commission had passed a motion to meet the provincial government to discuss such a gas tax increase.

McLean said that they still plan to look at a higher gas tax, but that money generated would come too late to meet BC Transit's present budget needs because a gas tax increase requires provincial legislation which takes time to be passed. "If we could get a half-cent [gas tax increase] we would have no trouble with the fare increase," McLean said. "The problem with going to the province is it takes them six months or more to respond."

BC Transit spokeperson Chris Foord agreed that even if the provincial government agreed to increase the gas tax, legislation could be passed at the February sitting of the Legislature at the earliest, and winning such provincial agreement would be difficult.

"Politically its going to be a tough sell," Foord said.

photo by Richard Warrington

The commission cannot legally run a deficit, Foord said, and it only has the discretionary power to raise revenues by either an increase in fares or property tax. Foord said that BC Transit recommended a fare increase because property tax was already raised by $10 per household last year and that covering the deficit by cutting service would be the last resort when there is no other choice.

Although the goal in BC Transit's five-year plan is to increase service by three per cent per year service was cut by two per cent in September after the loss of over a million dollars from the June bus strike and lower than expected gas tax revenues.

UVic prof challenged at peace lecture series

by John Thompson

A UVic Political Science professor ignited controversy last Wednesday when he spoke about US foreign policy.

Some of Robert Bedeski's views differed sharply from the audience, sparking debate over whether peaceful alternatives to bombing Afghanistan were possible.

"The US did not seek hegemony. Instead, it was thrust on them by events," he said, speaking at the first lecture in a five-part series entitled "Armed with Understanding."

The forum was organized by the UVic Student Society (UVSS) and the History Under-Graduate Society (THUGS).

Bedeski said America's challenge after September 11 was to provide safety for its citizens and that America's global dominance was neither intentional nor absolute.

He emphasized human security, or the safety of the individual, as his frame of analysis of US foreign policy.

Bedeski gave a brief historical overview of the rise of democracy over the twentieth century, noting the connection between democracy and human security.

"This is going to be a long and dirty fight," he said.

The professor described different perspectives for viewing the US: positive, realistic and critical. A positive view sees the US as a benevolent force, the realist sees the country as a self-interested global actor and the critical view sees it as an expansionist aggressor, like earlier empires.

Bedeski's own views were firmly rooted as a realist: "Power is not necessarily evil and US power is not absolute," he said.

However, many audience members were critical, both of America's actions and Bedeski's interpretation of them.

Many speakers called for peaceful alternatives to the growing military campaign against Afghanistan, but Bedeski was less optimistic.

"If you're going to be humanitarian about everything, that's an awful big hunk of your budget, trying to solve problems that are basically unsolvable," he said.

Bedeski did acknowledge "the root-cause school of thought," which views global poverty and inequalities as the source of terrorism, but he said, "I think it's impossible to establish a link between terrorism and poverty," adding that terrorism is usually a middle-class ideology with a religious element to it.

He dismissed VIPIRG's executive director, Stacy Chapell's suggestion to close the School of the Americas, which she said trained terrorists to fight for US interests.

"I don't think that's going to be in the cards," he said.

The question, "how are we going to stop terrorism?" which followed went unanswered, except when Bedeski said disarming America would be unproductive.

At one point Joan Russow, the former leader of the national Green Party, asked Bedeski about his acceptance of US policy.

"It's not a war. Let's call it what it is: revenge," she said.

In his own defense, Bedeski said:

"I think we're a planet apart on this. I don't think the US has any choices but to go after those who made the attack."

Bedeski also took flack for his comments about several UN aid workers killed during the first days of bombing.

"I agree, it's tragic, it's unfortunate, but they're taking their chances being there," he said. Some audience members criticized these comments as insensitive and callous.

Bedeski said that bombing Afghanistan wouldn't stop terrorist attacks initially and added at one point, "I'm quite sure it will lead to more of it."

Still, he said he didn't think the US had any other choices and that in the long term America's military offensive would increase human security.

"We're raising the costs of terrorism and destroying the infrastructure," he said.

Jude Coates, organizer of the forum said the event was a success, stressing the importance of having a variety of opinions represented.

"We're not here to pick sides," she said.

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Peace activist sparks debate on campus

by Caitlin Heayn

Liad Kantorowicz is no stranger to controversy.

She is with the International Solidarity Movement of Israel, a group of Israelis and internationals who form peaceful protests and demonstrations in a fight for Palestinian rights. Kantorowicz spoke on October 11 at UVic's Centre for Innovative Teaching, prompting heated exchanges among audience members. People listening to the talk obviously held differing views on the issues including causes of the conflict, who is the aggressor and who is the victim.

Kantorowicz and her family emigrated from Israel to America when she was 11 in 1989 during the first Intifada (people's uprising). Her father was a soldier in the Israeli army and had been involved in most wars but he did not want to participate in what he considered to be a war against civilians.

"I always knew I'd go back to Israel," said Kantorowicz, "I wanted to act as a neutral force but I realized I was walking a very fine line."

Kantorowicz returned during the second Intifada, and as an Israeli-American she was in a position of power to help Palestinians but has been labelled a traitor by many Israelis. Many of her fellows were apathetic to the treatment of Palestinians.

However, she said there are two kinds of people in Israel and she found those who want to help among those who do not.

"[Peace activists] attempt to look at the situation from both sides, to understand rather than just react to the violence," Kantorowicz said.

Tyson Smith, an American independent film-maker who traveled with Kantorowicz and made a documentary film called "The Third Force," showed what peace activists are doing to help the situation in Israel.

The activists lived among the Palestinians and acted as human shields in order to divert the Israeli military's bullets and shells.

"I expected to see a great amount of conflict, like what is shown on CNN," Smith said. "But I instead found reasonable people with intent to find solutions."

Kantorowicz commented that the peace movement is a very small minority of between 400 and 600 peace activists but in order to have the necessary impact to make effective changes they need many more. Internationals have an incredibly powerful effect in this situation.

It has been suggested that the ongoing problem is re-enforced by the education system, rather than the fighting itself. Israeli children are taught separately from Palestinian children, causing both groups to believe from a very early age that the other is the enemy.

Audience members presented the idea of a unified school system in which the children learn and live together peacefully. It is important to remember that habits and prejudices often start at a young age, so to educate children together could reduce that possibility in many ways.

Banned Concordia students back on campus

By Sean Carrie

MONTREAL (CUP) – Fifty-one days after they were banned from campus Concordia University student leaders Laith Marouf and Tom Keefer returned with much fanfare to their offices at the university's student union last Thursday.

The return followed a ruling from Provincial Court Judge Israel Mass who overturned the university's ban.

Concordia rector Frederick Lowy banned Marouf and Keefer in August after they allegedly uttered death threats and assaulted university security guards during a July 20 quarrel.

The university denied the pair an opportunity to appeal through the normal channels and said that since they had not yet registered for the upcoming term they were no longer Concordia students.

The Concordia Students' Union (CSU) responded by looking to the courts to bring about a resolution.

In court for the first stage of proceedings last Wednesday, Marouf, Keefer and CSU lawyer Giuseppe Sciortino argued the ban was illegal. Citing Quebec accreditation law Mass overturned the ban.

In making his decision Mass pointed out that because the CSU was accredited under that law, the university administration's jurisdiction could not extend to denying elected student leaders the opportunity to carry out their duties.

Marouf said he was pleased with the ruling.

"The grounds for his decision were very clear," he said. "The university violated Quebec accreditation law and the university has to respect that law, meaning they have to allow us access to our offices based on the fact that we are the elected representatives of the students."

But while Marouf referred to the judgement as "an important victory," university officials were quick to downplay the significance of the ruling. Concordia spokesperson Dennis Murphy said the pair had not been given full leave to resume their duties as student leaders.

"They were allowed back on campus to fulfil their duties to gather information for the court case coming up," said Murphy. "That's what the judgement is. They're not allowed back on other areas of campus."

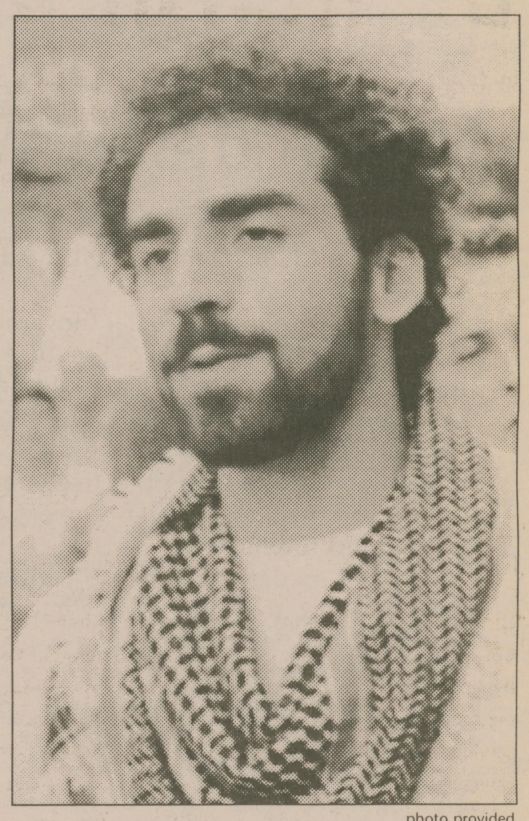

photo provided

Laith Marouf is confident that the law is on the side of the CSU

Murphy was also quick to point out that the "university's decision still stands, and that's not been called into question by the court."

The second stage of the court proceedings is scheduled for early November.

"We're returning to court to seek university due process," said Marouf.

"If that is found to not be within the jurisdiction of the judge then we'll ask for reinstatement, for him to judge himself if we're students or not."

Murphy said the university would "recognize the jurisdiction of the court" following Mass' ruling.

On Thursday Marouf and Keefer celebrated their return to campus by jointly cutting a ribbon tied in front of the door to the CSU offices. The event was attended by a small group of students.

"It's clear that the students have been encouraged by this ruling," Marouf said.

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EDITORIAL

Media democracy?

This Friday is Media Democracy Day, did you hear? Probably not.

Of all the burgeoning social movements, media liberation is usually absent from public discourse. This shouldn't be a surprise since the mass media could be hesitant to be objective on the matter.

Media shapes the way we see the world. We capture the moment and attempt to objectively record history. We attempt to reflect that water- cooler conversation of the day and add fodder to it.

But when media ownership is centralized under the hands of a few, then democracy and diversity are inevitably limited. Our society suffers.

Like other liberation movements, such as feminism, racial justice and environmentalism, media democracy is an integral component of freedom.

In Canada all of our major media is owned by very few very rich men. But it's true that by some definitions and comparisons our media is free. There are still countries where governments keep a stranglehold on the media with direct and complete censorship or by applying chill effects. Indonesian journalist Seno Ajidarma spoke at UVic last week about newspaper publishers in his country who are afraid to buck the status quo for fear of backlash. His country has several different news outlets, but each day readers see the same story repeated in every newspaper as though there were only one way to tell it.

But when the media is owned by a one or two large corporations the effect is similar.

Being the new guy at a major newspaper this past summer I was forced to go onto the six o'clock television news and relay my print story to those sitting at their supper table. I was supposed to "tease" the morning paper so people would go out and buy it and read my story too.

Most major newspapers in this country are owned by a national television media corporation, sadly. Being a print reporter, going into a little room set up to look like Joe-newsroom, plugging an invisible microphone into my ear and speaking to a camera was creepy enough without a healthy understanding of the symbolic significance of this act. I did not get paid extra to go on tv. I was being used by someone up the ranks of impenetrable management hierarchy to cut costs. My voice was the only voice on that story that day.

The news in our country is run like a business rather than a right and a service to democratic society. Under these circumstances, diversity takes a backseat because there's a bottom line to meet and investors to please.

Convergence has the same effect as state censors. Or worse.

During the Nisga'a treaty, local media baron David Black, owner of just about every community newspaper for hundreds of kilometers in any direction, told his reporters they couldn't write anything positive about the treaty.

Izzy Asper, a known Liberal government supporter, bought Conrad Black's media empire from him last year to add to his Canwest-Global tv empire.

During the Schwinigate fiasco, Izzy's son Leonard sent a memo across the Southam chain demanding the media give Jean Chrétien a break.

Of course there are reporters who write with integrity and attempt to resist these pressures. But until media is liberated their voices will still be hidden on C27 rather than the front pages.

And it doesn't help that people would rather watch reality tv and bad sit-coms than read reality (who wants to read about poverty-stricken moms on welfare when *Survivor* is on and the beer is chillin').

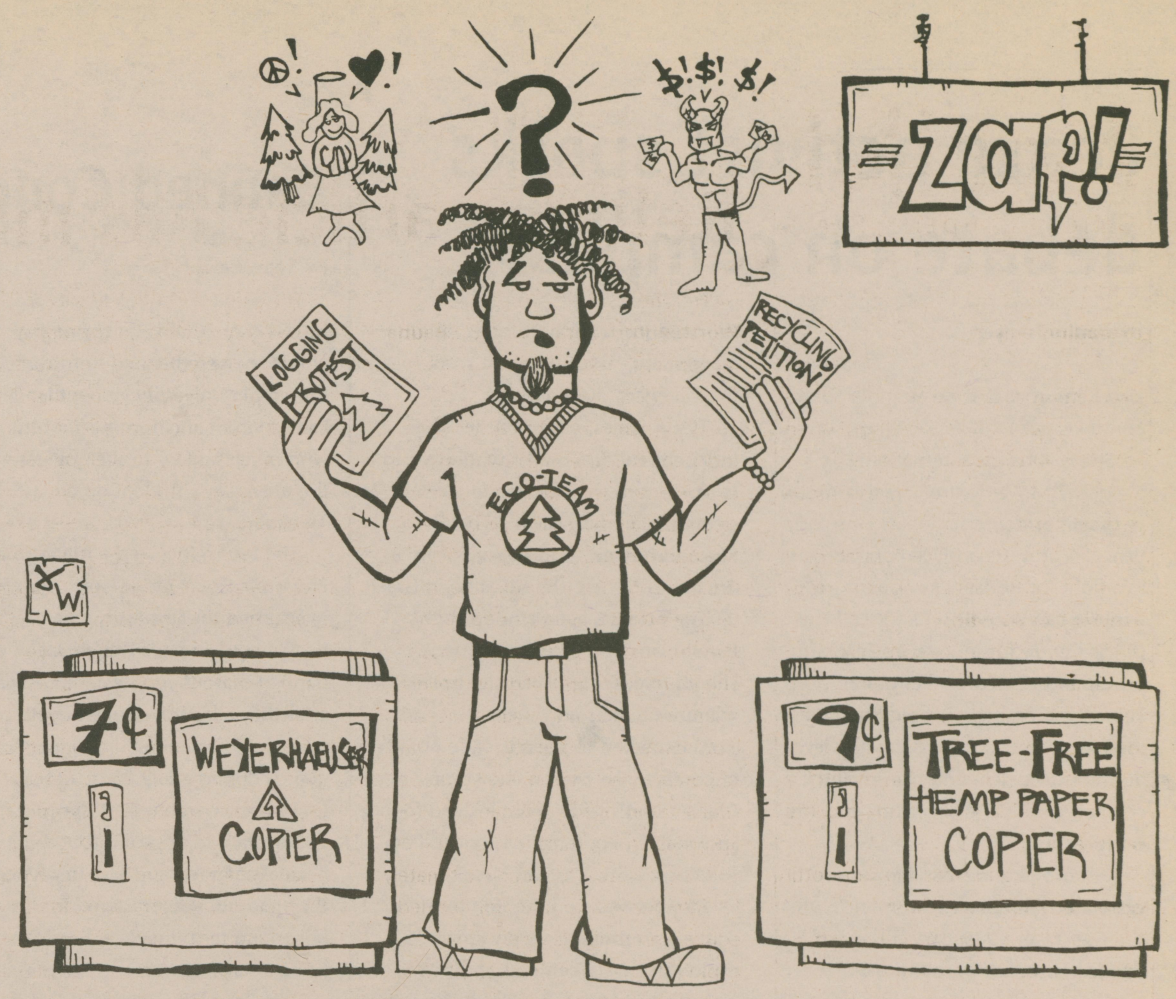
Very simply, media democracy needs both critical writers and critical readers and a forum for discourse.

The media is becoming more, not less, concentrated. We should demand that governments re-establish stricter limits on ownership, support independant media, write letters, boycott and read read read critically.

We'll all be better for it.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**



LETTERS

Subtlety missed by writer

Jeff Werner was so informed about Indigenous Rhythms ("An evening of music, storytelling, poetry, and indigenous rhythms," Oct. 11, 2001), I was very... impressed, indeed. I am glad we indigenous performers "amused" the writer so much. Enough for him to muddle almost every piece of information he wrote while covering the event, I am surprised that he was awake during most of it. I wonder if he even understood that there is no Shis'ka Nation while reporting on the comedic performance by Shis'ka Bob? The not-so subtle message in Bob's performance maybe got through to the Werner, but the subtlety and meaning behind the other performers seemed to pass by him completely. Indeed, my "tall cone hat" and "persistent smile" are sometimes accompanied by cartwheels and standing on that very "cone" hat... too bad that Werner was never present for one of those enjoyable "performances."

I believe that next time, *the Martlet* should send someone to cover Indigenous Rhythms who at least has some sort of understanding and knowledge about Indigenous people who will at least give a relatable conveyance of the event. It is a bi-monthly event, after all, not "annual" as the informed reporter stated. If he is at the next Indigenous Rhythms, I will be sure to leave my persistent smile and cedar bark hat at home, and deliver a much more straightforward message about who I am and the significance of what I am conveying before I launch into song.

Jusquan

Student owes apology to community

I'm deeply offended by Mr. Ingmar Lee's article ("Student says Turpin's silence speaks," Oct. 11, 2001), when he says that the horrific events of September 11 were not terrorism. Lee must immediately and unreservedly apologize to President Turpin and to all the students who came to the vigil on that terrible morning of September 11.

New York's Mayor Giuliani has recently said, "There is no moral equivalent for this attack." However, some UVic faculty and students like to engage in petty attempts to blame those hapless 5,000 victims in the World Trade Centre by doing highly-selective historical "bodycounts."

Members of the UVic community who don't share the ideology of Mr. Lee and his ilk need to challenge such depressing drivel whenever it is offered up in lectures, articles or discussion.

John Newcomb

Donation isn't front-page news

There really must be nothing happening in Victoria when a $12.25 donation to the Liberal government makes for front page news ("Student sends priemier her savings," Oct. 11, 2001). I realize Kinney's action is entirely symbolic, but for her to compare a miniscule donation of twelve bucks to Jimmy Pattison sending back his rebate is laughable. She is losing a pitcher of beer, while Pattison and others like him would lose thousands.

As for her complaint about having to pay $13 a month more in child care premiums, well, maybe if she wasn't giving all her money away it wouldn't be such a hardship. If Kinney had kept her $12.25, and payed the extra $13, she would be at a loss of a whopping 75 cents a month. And this is neither front page news, nor a large price to pay for having a competent government run our province.

David Webb

Editorial misrepresents Turpin's views

A recent *Martlet* editorial ("Students may have to pay the piper," Oct. 4, 2001), leaves your readers with a misleading impression of the views of UVic President Dr. David Turpin on post-secondary funding. The editorial claimed that Dr. Turpin told the Times Colonist 'he sees a need for "an increase in student support" to refloat cash strapped universities in the province.'

In fact, Dr. Turpin was quoted in the Times Colonist saying "We [UVic] don't see a situation where you can simply off-load costs to students. We see a need for an increase in government support to correspond with any increase in student support and we see an increased need for student financial aid."

It is unfortunate that the Oct. 4 editorial did not attempt to accurately reflect Dr. Turpin's views.

Patty Pitts
Acting Director, UVic Communications

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STUDENT VOICES

Refugee article has misplaced emphasis

by Heather Fisher, Anne Worthington, Lora Quigley, Shauna Ianson, Hannah Hickey

The October 4 issue of *the Martlet* featured an article entitled "Fifty cents can help refugees" which was intended to discuss a student-run program through the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) that assists student refugees from around the world to continue their education in Canada. The journalist, Tim Holloway, covered many sources in his research including club members, university representatives and national coordinators of the Refugee Sponsorship Program.

Unfortunately the article ultimately fell into the hands of an uninformed editor who took the opportunity to exploit the situation in attempt to tie it into the recent September 11 event. The motivation seems to be to capture reader interest.

Members of the WUSC club believe it is important for students to know that this year's sponsored student requested that the country of origin remain anonymous. This request was ignored.

The student did not specify reasons for not commenting to *the Martlet* so an editor put words into the student's mouth. *The Martlet* decided that the student was concerned about the "backlash" of the terrorist attacks.

This treatment of the student begs the question of how much improved the situation of a refugee is once they have arrived in Canada. Are they just trading political oppression for racial discrimination? The club's position is that it would not ask any student, regardless of their origin, to become a focus of public curiosity. Students are here to get an education, not to be a sideshow act for our entertainment.

The article mentions the Canadian system of refugee admission, saying this process will be challenged due to the possibility that we are admitting terrorists into the country. Mentioning this aspect, which has nothing to do with our program or our student, makes it sound like the student could be a terrorist based only on the country of origin.

Are we, as a student body in a proclaimed multicultural society, to ignore a person's attempts to protect themselves from exploitation?

The re-ordering of the statements in the article has confused the issue. The mention of the recent addition to student fees for the program is followed by a statement by the UVic Executive Director of Student and Ancillary Services proclaiming the program runs without university funding.

Those reading the article may not have intimate knowledge of how the university, as an institution, works. They would not realize that the university itself doesn't add to this amount because the program isn't run by the university. The students chose to add fifty cents to student fees because they value this program. All of the decisions come from these students and each year's WUSC volunteers work tirelessly to arrange to bring the sponsored student to Canada.

Incidentally, a picture of the committee was to accompany the article, however it seems that would have taken away from the apparent focus on Afghanistan.

The article gets even more confusing comparing international students and refugee students. The only correlation between the two is that they are both categories of students that come from elsewhere; they are the "others." What does a student from, for example, Seattle have to do with the refugee program?

The article points out that international students do not require funding whereas a refugee student does. This comparison portrays the refugee student as a burden. Sponsored students must meet high education and language qualifications to be accepted to WUSC's program and are very learned, intelligent people. *The Martlet* could have presented these positive aspects of the program and its students.

If students are fascinated by a "refugee" from Afghanistan at UVic they can join WUSC and help by becoming a friend. It is a sad day when the same university that teaches the fallacy of the media to poorly portray minorities allows their own newspaper to compromise a minority student's rights and privacy in hopes of a scoop.

We have the freedom of the press – it should reflect the freedom of the people.

For info contact: wuscuvic@hotmail.com

On the wealth of nations

by Rana Phagurra

It would appear that except for a few lamentable areas of backsliding, the world has seen the wisdom of Adam Smith's ways. Yet during this whole time there has been an alternative school of thought. The Enlightenment philosophers were not the only ones to think about how the world should be organized. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the Germans were also active. In place of Rousseau and Locke the Germans offered Hegel. In place of Adam Smith they had Friedrich List.

Friedrich List was interested in market failures. In particular he argued that industrial development entailed a sweeping sort of market failure. If every person put his money where the return was greatest, the money might not automatically go where it would do the nation the most good. For it to do so required a plan, a push, an exercise of central power.

Friedrich List drew heavily on the history of his times – in which the British government deliberately encouraged British manufacturing and the fledgling American government deliberately discouraged foreign competitors. In the long run, List argued, a society's well-being and its overall wealth are determined not by what the society can buy but by what it can make. Therefore, nations should nurture and protect their infant industries until they are strong enough for laissez-faire.

British economists began to talk about getting prices right only after they had succeeded in promoting their own industries by getting prices wrong. Prices were wrong in that cheap competition from the colonies was forbidden. They were also wrong in that the Crown subsidized and encouraged investment in factories and a fleet. By the time Adam Smith came along, the British could afford to start lecturing other countries about the folly of tariffs and protection. Why should France (Canada, China, India...) punish its consumers by denying them access to cheap, well-made English cloth?

America's economic history has followed the same pattern. The country had no time for laissez-faire while American industry was developing. The United States, born in the same year as "The Wealth of Nations", pursued a policy of protectionism for 150 years after the Revolution - mostly through the tariff. Consumer welfare took second place; promoting production came first. American support for worldwide free trade only started at the end of the Second World War.

Since World War II, American politicians have often said that their trading goal is a "level playing field" for competition around the world. This implies a horizontal relationship between nations, in which they all compete as more or less equal rivals. However, this horizontal metaphor is misleading. The structure of the world economy more accurately resembles a pyramid, or a cone, rather than a plane.

The concepts of consumer welfare, comparative advantage, and free trade may now seem less like concepts and more like natural laws, but these concepts are detached from historical experience.

SOAPBOX

What happens when you let the salamanders go

by Sarah Glen

I put on my wedding dress last night. Slipped red embroidered satin over my head, smoothed it down my sides and zipped it up to my neck. Stood barefoot in my bathroom reflected in the long, wide mirror that only shows from my belly button up.

I call it my wedding dress because I wear it to weddings. Well, I've only ever worn it to one wedding and that was this summer. Back in July I was a date for a ceremony behind someone's blue house.

I pulled out the dress again last night, because this December a friend is getting married. She's eight weeks pregnant. We haven't talked for three years and I'm invited.

I thought maybe it could be recycled.

I called her yesterday morning. When she picked up the telephone, I wasn't sure it was her. The voice – dusty, thick – sounded like she was just beginning or getting over a cold.

It's Sarah, I said. Silence.

She laughed, long. I giggled. And then it started.

We talked for two hours. She told me about the baby inside that makes her feel plugged. How she wants to call it Emily if it is a girl. How the house her and Chris (that's the groom) bought has a yellow-covered slide and two-room treehouse in the back yard (they visited the bank this week and will be able to move in at the end of October). How she is finally glad to be moving out of her parents' house. How she wishes she could still be a police officer but the baby is due in May. How she quit smoking after the double blue lines appeared. How the wedding invitations will be printed and sent next week. How she feels tight. How she can't sleep lately, cries easily. I listened.

This is the girl I made daisy necklaces with while tanning on rainbowed towels. I would sleep over at her house and we'd stay up late eating chocolate covered graham crackers and when we'd get up the next morning, the back of our legs would be streaked with melted chocolate. We even once bought a Siamese fighting fish together, but changed the water too quickly one day and it died. We kept it in the bowl for two weeks before burying it under her mom's tulips in the front yard. Its scales flaked off in chunks when we scooped it out of the water, wrapped it in a piece of paper towel and brought it outside. I've never wanted a fish since.

I walked long in the rain in tank tops and bare feet with her. Cried into warm necks about messy, angry sex. Snuck outside through open bedroom windows to meet boys across the highway. Sang duets at school concerts. Compared breasts in bedrooms cluttered with homemade, knitted afghans and stuffed teddies. Jumped off cliffs into lakes and creeks. Caught red and black salamanders in tupperwear containers meant for soup.

I remember she always smelled like baby powder.

My wedding dress is red and I bought it from an import store, the tag says it is hand-made in Shanghai. When I wear it, I feel like Jessica Rabbit.

Her dress will be white. With pearl buttons down the back and an empire waist because she doesn't want her belly to show. She wants to forget she's pregnant. She's afraid of what her grandparents will say; that they won't come if they see her firm, round stomach before a gold ring.

When I asked her what she would feel like when she slipped that dress on, she said sad.

I stood so long on the green and white linoleum in my bathroom last night that the bottoms of my feet tips of my toes were pale and slightly purple.

Later, I slid along the wall, pulled my dress around my knees and laid my head against the doorway. When I finally pulled it off I left it in a shiny pile in the middle of my floor.

For her, the dress doesn't come off so easily and can't be recycled; it is her forever.

I'm not sure if I want to wear mine again.

University at gunpoint

Israeli military blockaded the only road to a well-respected university in the West Bank

by Cristobal Young

For the students and faculty at Bir Zeit University, West Bank, this has been a challenging year. The Israeli military has blockaded the only road to the university.

"What is normally a 10-minute commute now regularly takes hours," said Adam Abusharar, a Canadian foreign student at Bir Zeit.

In the spring so many classes were delayed that the term extended into mid July - almost a month late. This fall classes have been cancelled about once a week because not enough students could get to school. In a recent report the Human Rights Watch condemned the blockade as a "considerable violation of [students'] right to academic freedom."

✡

The West Bank, a small strip of territory lying between Israel and Jordan, has been under Israeli occupation since 1967. The occupation is illegal under international law and the UN does not recognize Israel's claim to the territory.

Under the Oslo Peace Accord, signed in 1993, the West Bank gained partial self-government. Its permanent status was to be determined through later negotiations, which have since broken down.

Bir Zeit is a reputable university in the region. Most of the professors have degrees from Western universities. They have external funding from the European Union, and many foreign students enroll.

Since spring of 1999, 19 Canadian students have attended.

One of those is Richard Johnston who enrolled last year just before the Al Aqsa Intifada in October 2000- the uprising, as it is called by Palestinians.

"I thought my timing for going would be great," he said. Instead, he found a fragile peace turning into chaos.

In early March of last year, just days after Israeli Prime Minster Ariel Sharon came to power, soldiers came with bulldozers one morning and tore up the road to the university.

In one of the many protests that followed, students came out en masse to fill in the deep swathes cut out of their road. The day ended with a storm of tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets. Seventy-four were injured and one was killed.

Johnston was not part of the crowd that was fired upon, but he watched it all happen.

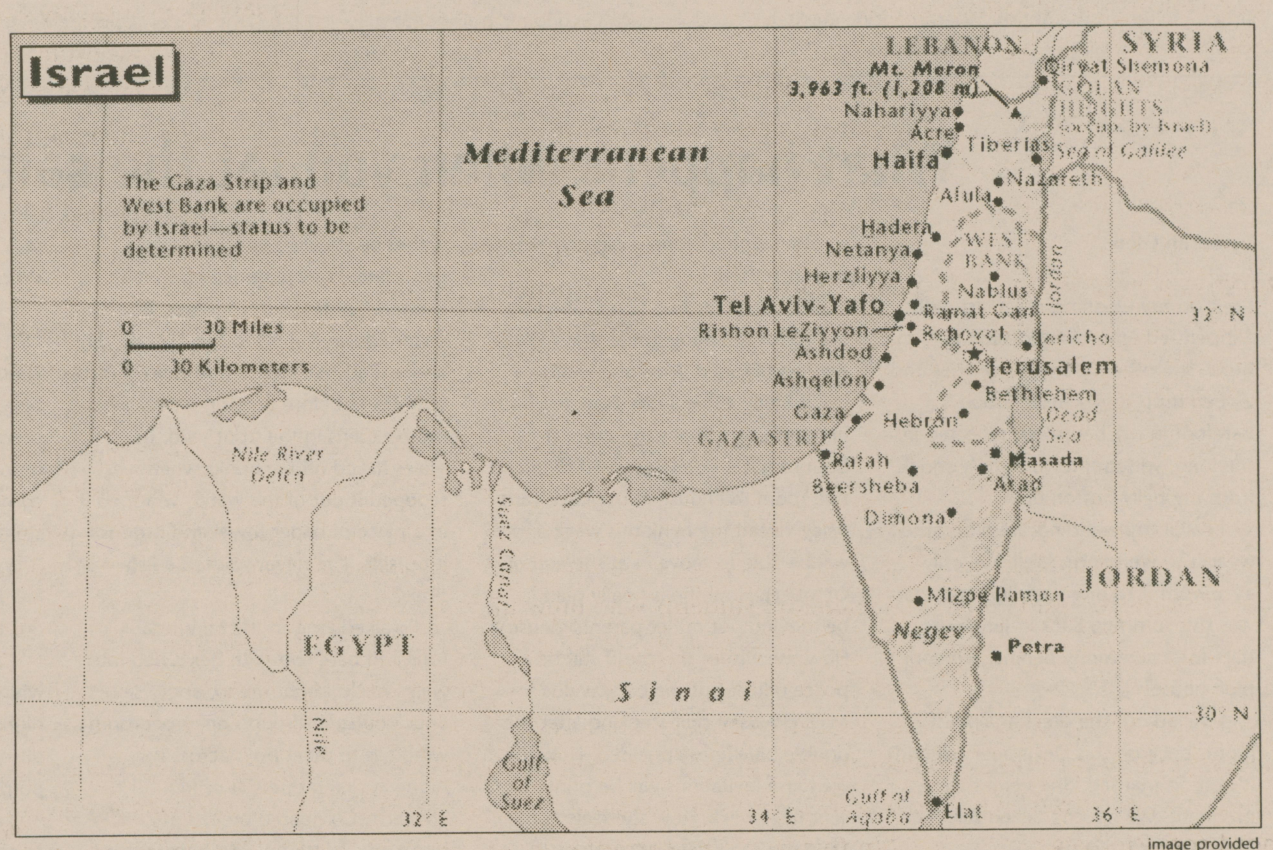
In the aftermath the road was repaved. But since then the military has placed massive concrete blocks on the road - an almost blanket restriction on car travel to Bir Zeit that remains today.

✡

Adam Abusharar is a Canadian of Croatian and Palestinian descent. He's been a student at Bir Zeit for about three months. He studies Arabic and in his spare time he is a human rights observer at the military checkpoint. He said he had seen enough abuse to make him angry, which he is, but at the same time he almost sympathizes with the soldiers.

Mostly, he said, they are 18-year-old conscripts who have to live with being seen as hostile and often don't even know the point of their work.

One soldier told him: "Look, this is my job. I have to do it, not question it."



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Human Rights Watch reports can be found on-line (www.hrw.org). Reports cited here are "Israel: Palestinian Academic Rights Violated" and "Center of the Storm: A Case Study of Human Rights Abuses in Hebron District."

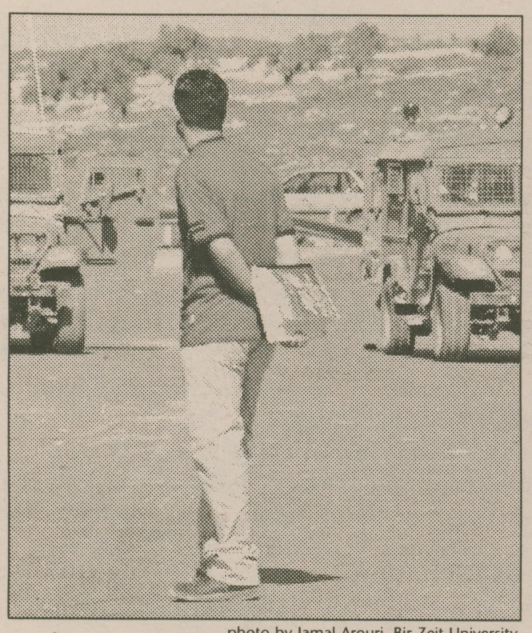


photo by Jamal Arouri, Bir Zeit University

A Bir Zeit University student makes his way to school.

photo provided by Bir Zeit University

A Bir Zeit professor argues with soldiers.

photo provided by Bir Zeit University

People and cars line up at the Israeli military blockade on the only road to Bir Zeit University.

Johnston is a veteran of the checkpoint watch and he shares this ambivalent view. He once saw soldiers go out of their way to get an eight car wedding party through the checkpoint without delay. He has also had soldiers point machine guns at his head.

"Soldiers at the checkpoint are many things," Johnston says. "But professional is not one of them."

Muna Tamimi is Bir Zeit's director of Palestinian and Arabic Studies and she has to cross the roadblock everyday. To her, the experience is "depressing, exhausting and humiliating."

Tamimi finds teaching increasingly difficult.

"By the time we get to work or classes we are so exhausted and anxious we can hardly focus on what we must do."

Recently, Tamimi was caught in a burst of tear gas at the checkpoint.

"I immediately felt my lungs tighten as though they had collapsed," she said. "My throat shut tight and my nose started bleeding. I was sick for three days after."

✡

The Israeli Military has set up many of these checkpoints and roadblocks inside the West Bank. Many of them surround Israeli settlements and are said to be for security purposes.

The city of Hebron "has about 400 settlers who live among the 100,000 or so Palestinians and are protected by thousands of [Israeli] soldiers," said Abusharar.

The settlements, illegal under international law, are the center of conflict and violence in the West Bank.

Most settlers are from the extreme religious right, hard-core Zionists who believe passionately in their status as people chosen by God to populate Palestine. Such a view comes from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in which Moses led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and into Palestine.

The settlers are heavily armed, and violence on both sides is common.

It seems that Israeli soldiers are no peacekeepers when these clashes arise. Indeed, the Human Rights Watch reports that "Israeli settlers have initiated many attacks against Palestinian civilians, relying on the [Israeli military] to protect them from counterattack."

Claims that the Bir Zeit blockade has any security purpose ring hollow - students are quick to point out that there are no settlements near Bir Zeit. The university is located in a quiet, largely Christian village and has not been a conflict zone.

The Human Rights Watch states that Israel has never given "any specific security reasons to explain the checkpoint's placement" and refused to respond to questions about it.

✡

To the students at Bir Zeit all of this amounts to petty harassment.

"It's one more way of being treated like crap," said Abusharar.

When asked what this means for the peace process and for constructive dialogue with Israel, Abusharar admitted he's too angry for the question.

"You spoke of dialogue," he said. "There can be no dialogue while this occupation continues."

Johnston is more contemplative.

"These are students who grew up during the Oslo [peace] process," he said. "The political thought [at Bir Zeit] was mostly related to internal Palestinian affairs - like what happens when they finally get a state."

"In this way, [the current conflict] is undoing a generation who concentrated on peace as a prospective way of life," said Johnston.

Bir Zeit's history

A university under occupation

1924 Bir Zeit is established as an elementary school. Over the years it gradually evolves into a community college.

1967 The Six-Day War. Israel invades Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. The West Bank and other regions come under Israeli occupation. Travel restrictions imposed on Palestinians make studies abroad more difficult. In response, Bir Zeit begins preparing a third and forth year university curriculum.

1973 Just as Bir Zeit prepares to open as a full-fledged university, the Israeli military orders the campus closed. It reopened two weeks later, but the university has been shut down routinely since then.

1980 The University is briefly placed under military rule. The Israeli army asserts full control over administration, including student admission, the hiring of faculty, and course content. The order is repealed after sharp international protest.

1988 The University is closed for the 15th time by Israeli military order, lasting for almost four and a half years. During this time the university goes underground, offering full-credit courses for small groups under secretive, makeshift conditions.

1993 The Oslo Peace Accord provides partial self-government for the West Bank. The University expands to offer a substantial graduate faculty. The Institute of Women's Studies is established, one of only two such programs in the entire Arab World.

1996 In a massive raid on the university, Israeli soldiers arrest 280 students – one-tenth of the student body. Virtually all are eventually released without charge.

Masters and servants at the Phoenix

by Käthe Lemon

photo provided

Endgame is the first of four plays that will run at the Phoenix this year.

Tucked away on the far side of ring road, the Phoenix Theatre will kick off its 35th season with *Endgame*, opening October 18.

It is a season the Phoenix has dubbed "Masters and Servants" for the power struggles that take place in each of the four plays that will be mounted this year.

"We do have a season that offers a lot," said Brian Richmond, the new chair of the theatre department.

Endgame itself is a rarely produced Samuel Beckett play that explores themes of life and death. The Phoenix promises that this production will be as astonishing and thought-provoking as when it was first staged. *Endgame* is reported to be the piece that Beckett regarded as his best work, and it shows all the characteristics of being such. Retiring UVic theatre professor John Krich plays the role of Hamm, and Giles Hogya directs.

Next up is *Turandot*, a romantic fairytale by Carlo Gozzi, which runs from Nov. 15 through Dec. 1. *Turandot* tells the story of the Ice Princess who loves her freedom and wishes to reject the ties of marriage. However, unable to persuade her father to allow her to stay unwed she concocts a plan to discourage any suitor: anyone who asks for her hand must answer three riddles. The man who answers all three correctly wins her hand, but anyone who tries and fails is beheaded. Many try and fail, but as in all fairytales there is one handsome prince who will win the princess's hand – however, he may find that sometimes it's better to lose in love.

Twenty-four actors will be on-stage in *Turandot*, which helps balance out the dirth of roles in both *Endgame* (four) and *The Monument* (two).

"We are a teaching institution," said Marnie Crowe, communications officer at the Phoenix. "They learn by getting their hands into it."

In the second semester *The Monument* explores questions surrounding war – how much choice does a soldier have in time of war? Must he follow orders? What about a mother left to confront the aftermath of an ethnically motivated war? What choices does she have for reparation? Each of these plays will challenge audiences, but *The Monument* addresses questions that are especially relevant to us now, as our southern neighbours head into another battle. The only thing that is clear is that these questions must be raised.

The Monument opens Feb. 14 and runs through to Feb. 23. Discretion is advised for this piece as some patrons may find the language and subject matter disturbing.

To keep audiences on their feet, the season is rounded out with Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Sakalas Uzdavinys is directing "the Scottish play" for his MFA thesis. In *Macbeth* we see a man consumed by his hunger for power, pushed on by his strong-willed wife. The theme of masters and servants is nowhere more clear than here.

None of the plays in the Phoenix season are light, each will leave audiences questioning and thinking. In this sense the Phoenix seems to be acting not only as a school for actors but also for audiences, challenging them to see meaning instead of just entertainment in theatre.

All evening performances are at 8 p.m., Saturday matinees are at 2 p.m. Students can buy half price tickets for performances Monday through Thursdays and Saturday matinees. For tickets or reservations call the Phoenix box office at 721-8000.

UVic's new generation of composers

by Layla Bloom

If the only composers you can think of are Bach or Beethoven it's time to attend a UVic Student Composers concert. Composition students of the School of Music are composing new works even as you read. Their regular concerts are well worth checking out. As Christopher Butterfield, a professor in the music department, can tell you, "There's something for everyone. Every concert is wildly different."

The latest performance of UVic's own composers on Oct. 13 featured a range of styles, from Stefan Hönisch's classically-inspired tonal piece, "Magnificat," to Dave Chokroun's minimalist piece, "Half as bright; Burns twice." The ensembles were as creative as the styles: unorthodox groupings like "duet for violoncello and snare drum" by Wilhelm Schulze or "Creations Bâtards," by Carl Winters, which featured five pianos rigged with glass bottles as slides and chains of paper clips between the strings and the hammers.

What inspires these talented individuals? Owen Goward explained that "you write about what you're into." Goward's "Elegy" for solo cello was motivated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks which prompted him to write his sad "but skeptical" piece. Eric Clark's "Pick-up that Damn Fine Piano" resulted from his obsession with pick-up lines. In the performance, a sleazy guy (Jordan Dyck) comes on to a piano using cheesy pick-up lines, even getting so fresh as to stroke the piano's strings; the piano, "getting pissed off," responds in musical irritation.

Though many of the pieces were easily entertaining, a few sought to challenge the expectations of the audience. "It's nice when you hear something really uncompromising," said Butterfield of experimental pieces like Chokroun's and Schulze's. Chokroun's was probably the longest piece of the concert, extending much longer than even the composer intended. Butterfield, however, insisted that it might have gone on for another 20 minutes. "[People are] used to things taking a certain amount of time," he said, "We are flummoxed when we hear something that is not going to make us comfortable." This, he believes, is originally "what art was supposed to do."

Instruction in the Composition Department involves studying the different approaches of composers throughout the last century. "I don't think you can teach composition," Butterfield admitted. The most professors can do is "help [the students] realize what they want to hear." Though Butterfield acknowledged that the department "has always tended towards the experimental," the only criterion for entrance into the program is "demonstrating an imagination." Imagination certainly was the defining theme of this most wonderful evening of music.

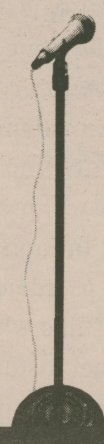
The next Student Composers Concert is Nov. 23, 12:30 p.m., Philip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission is by donation. For more info, see www.finearts.uvic.ca/music/events.

MARGOT KIDDER TRACEY A. LEIGH AMY LOVE

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

BY EVE ENSLER

SPREAD THE WORD



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Bif is back and buff

by Erin O'Byrne

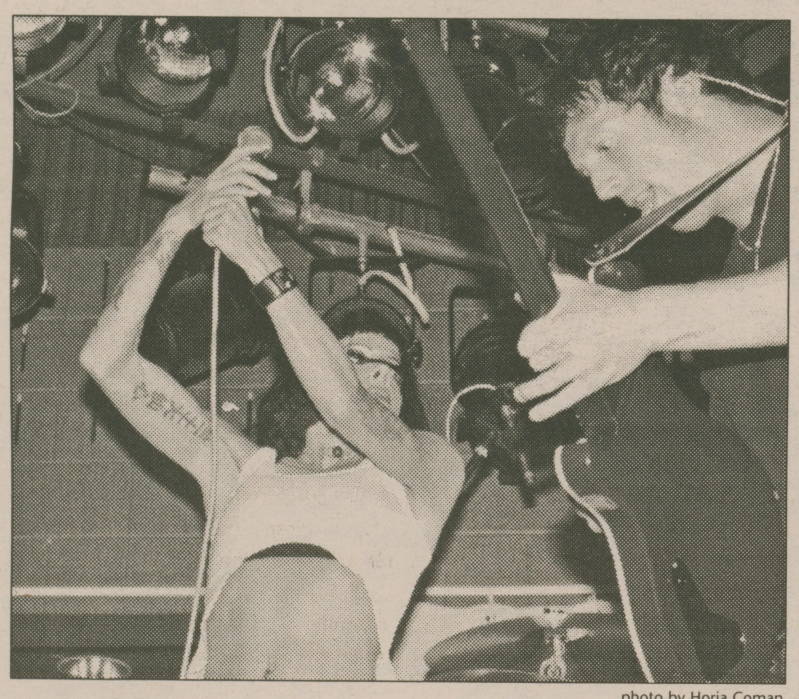

photo by Horia Coman

Bif and one of her band members get ready to rumble at Vertigo.

Owner of Her Royal Majesty's records, Bif Naked graced Victoria with her presence last Saturday. Touring her new album Purge, over 400 fans were lucky to catch her sold-out show at Vertigo.

This former underground punk performer has sure toned down her music and toned up her body.

"I'm fucking lazy," laughs Bif when asked why her punk image has mellowed, "My eyeliner is in my bag."

All kidding aside, Bif has worked hard to get where she is today. She proved this by opening with "Leader" and ending the energetic evening with a cover tune "We're not Gonna Take It."

"Don't give up and keep trying," is Bif's advice for getting what you want out of life especially within the music industry.

"I love playing small venues and Victoria is close to home," said Bif. Marriage proposals and shouts from appreciative fans echoed the room while in her 'Let's get ready to rumble' voice Bif introduced the band members all from "Vancooouver, British Columммbia Caaanadaaa".

"She was totally playing for the crowd," one Nanaimo fan said. "She was very personable. Her show brought the house down."

"Complete abstention. If I can do it anyone can," writes Bif in her album's liner. The Xs tattooed on her arms signify her Zen-like approached to life now. She gave high fives to front row fans, ran to join in a drum solo, and performed kung fu kicks and tango moves across the stage.

Her purge from hard core punk to a radio-friendly beat leaves room for the sounds of "Leader" and "I Love myself Today," which still reflects that special Bif touch.

Static in Stereo provided a Tea Partyish tone to start the evening. Live on Release created a Josie and the Pussycats punk atmosphere. Their song "Falling" brought Static in Stereo and Bif on stage to all join forces. Bif's stage manager even made a guitar appearance for one of her songs.

Bif sung her wishes of finding a regular guy who likes cherry popsicles. Guys, if you want to get her attention don't tattoo a picture of her on your body or have it air brushed on the hood of your car as she commented crazy American fans have done.

"It's really creepy to see your face on some guys bicep," said Bif after the show.

Strap on your tango shoes in 2002 as Bif plans to reappear in the new year. For those of you wondering, Bif's tango shoes are a second-hand pair of Charlie Jordan's.

Early next year her album will be released in the US but she will always first and foremost be Canadian.

El Vez earns his wings

By Juliet Rice

When I heard El Vez was going to be performing in Vertigo on Oct. 9, I thought, "Doesn't that beat all... a Mexican Elvis impersonator." I have a long-standing fascination with Elvis and wanted very much to feed this fascination. El Vez proved to be much more than just an Elvis impersonator.

El-Vez is a creation by Robert Lopez, inspired by two things: the belief that anyone could be a rock star and that Elvis was Latino. "When I was a kid in the 60's, I had uncles with continental slacks and slight pompadours in the Elvis style. I thought Elvis looked like my uncles." El Vez is on tour promoting his newest cd *Boxing with God*. His show's theme was a gospel-revival revue gone astray, complete with an entourage consisting of the El Vettes, his back-up singers, and his band, the Memphis Mariachis. The Memphis Mariachis kicked it up, demonstrating their skill through playing several varieties of music. (The bass player looked just like Dee Dee Ramone, which amused me to no end.)

Most if not all the songs were about Jesus, the latter possibly would be surprised to hear the lyrics to Iggy Pop's "Lust for Life" altered to "Lust for Christ," a concept which makes me laugh from a sense of unease.

El Vez set out to entertain and did not fail. His high energy was matched with the El Vettes, all of whom went close to non-stop for two hours. Then there were the costumes, a stunning array of risqué Elvis-in-his-later-years jumpsuits and PVC pants. What can be said about a muscly Mexican man dressed only in gold hotpants singing about the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl to the tune of "Heartbreak Hotel?"

El Vez borrowed quite liberally from pop music, featuring clips from the likes of Prince, Stevie Wonder, James Brown, George Michael and music from the film "Grease." His own music had a rock and roll feel to it, but a light-hearted feel, much like the music of Weird Al's which isn't parodied.

photo by Mike Lecky

El Vez, the rocking 'Mexi-can' shows off his shiny shorts.

While definitely entertaining, El Vez uses the form of song to offer facets of Mexican history (for example the popular theory that the Mayan people were visited by aliens which is claimed to have 'advanced' their civilization), issues of the barrio and naturally, safe sex. At one point, in a 'Hallelujah, brother!' style, El Vez announced to the cheering crowd that he had the power to make them all Latino, and did. Even more impressive was his ability to convince inebriated members of the audience to indulge in his passion for public exhibitionism. Only down to the boxers, of course.

El Vez spoke of the healing power of positive thinking, advising us all to be 'Mexi-cans,' not 'Mexi-can'ts.' When El Vez emerged for the encore wearing white PVC pants, a halo and the most glorious set of angel wings gently arched and made from real white feathers, El Vez showed he was most certainly a 'Mexi-can.'

CD REVIEW

Sloan
Pretty Together
Murderecords

by Erin O'Brien

This band has been around a long time so I have to assume that they know what they're doing.

If their sound isn't always clean and pretty, it's intentional. It's their angle. I know they can write great radio-friendly pop-rock. They proved it with their big hits "Good In Everyone" and "Money City Mania." So why don't they? I think that's what this album is about.

It's about rock and roll.

It's not always catchy. It won't jump into your ear and infect your mind, unless you ask it to (but I recommend that you ask).

Sloan's music seems to have a gritty film covering it, a grunge aesthetic that requires some active listening to get to the core of it. But once you spend that bit of effort you're rewarded by the discovery that, unlike a lot of pop music, there is a core.

The album starts with the statement, "This song is for you, because this song is for people who know what rock and roll is about."

This is one of many statements that challenge the listener to engage in the music. Is this what rock and roll is about? After some active listening, I'd say definitely. Can I tell you why or how? Can you put what rock and roll is about into words? I don't think so, so I won't try. Along with this matter of what rock and roll is about, *Pretty Together* consistently brings up the question of the future of rock music.

"Are you one of the ones who went and gave up on rock and roll?" Sloan asks in "Pick It Up And Dial It," a call for those who still believe in the music to do something about it. This is the answer to my prayers. Or at least someone joining in on them. "They say that rock and roll is dead again; you tell me if it's true," the song ends. These guys, at least, are doing their part to keep it alive.

Despite all this talk of rock and roll this is not a loud album. It's got its fair share of mellow laments. And don't let the phrase "grunge aesthetic" scare you into thinking these guys can't play their instruments.

As musicians Sloan's experience shows. In fact, the album's major strength lies not in how hard it rocks but in its stirring melodies. But the theme of the state of rock and roll holds it all together. Several songs that initially sound like laments of lost love, when put in this perspective, suddenly sound like fear about the future of the music.

Overall Sloan's got it Pretty Together (I had to say that). So if keeping rock and roll alive is on your agenda, check this album out. And check out Sloan at Vertigo on Nov. 10.

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Tupperware parties are for old biddies

photo by Trisha Wilson

Martlet Arts Editor Eliana Lev is armed for battle!

by Elianna Lev

No offence to the people at Tupperware but being a student I don't really have that much use for their products.

I know that they are the leaders when it comes to household containers but I don't really do all that much storing when it comes to food. Needless to say, I don't own a lot of Tupperware nor have I ever hosted a Tupperware party.

But my roommate and I were recently the proud hostesses of a Sexware party. This event was lead by Shelley from The Pleasure Zone, a word-of-mouth company that sells (through demonstration) top-of-the-line intimacy products. We're talking everything from body bars to Clittor Critters to Vibrating Jelly cock rings.

Since The Pleasure Zone will only come to your house if you guarantee eight ladies will be attending your party, my roomy and I spread the word as best we could. We invited every female we knew, or remotely knew, in hopes of making this party the best girlie night in town. In the end, 16 lovely ladies showed up.

Before Shelley arrived we got warmed up by eating phallic appetizers (read: anything that you can dip) and shaping cookie dough into penises (vaginas were too tricky). We also drank lots and lots of martinis. By 8 p.m. I was so hammered I would have bought a rock if you'd told me it vibrated.

At around 8:15 p.m. some unsuspecting visitors arrived: BOYS! Oh no. One of my lovely guest's fiancée marched into my house, uninvited, with his two ogre friends in tow, armed with a camera.

"We thought you'd all be using each other's vibrators and having pillow fights in your panties," they said. "We wanted to make sure you had those special moments on film."

After a little bit of convincing, the boys decided to head out, defeated and depleted (though they encouraged us to keep the camera and take pictures throughout the night). But before they left, the silly brutes gave me a special gift that they deemed appropriate for the evening: a grossly over-zealous zucchini the size of my thigh. I will be sure to make lots of lovely loaves of bread out of it.

Finally at 8:30 p.m. Shelley, the guest of honour, showed up large toolbox in hand. We all gathered into my roommate's room and settled in as she prepared her display. Before she began her demo Shelley said that the point of the evening was to have fun and enjoy ourselves. With the ratio of about six cocktails per person we were prepared. She also said that her one and only rule for the evening was that there were to be no ewwws or yucks during her demonstration. Everyone agreed and the show began.

For the next hour Shelley displayed and passed around countless products, ranging from sex guidebooks to butt plugs. The ewwws and yucks that may have been present had we been 8 or 10 years younger were now replaced with ohhhs and ahhhs. There was something there for everyone. The biggest hit of the night was the Micro Bullet, a "whisper quiet" sleek-as-007 vibrator the size of half my pinky. Shelley's demo took about an hour and she breezed through it with humour and delicacy. She concluded to a roar of applause.

Once she was done Shelley went into my room where each of the girls who wished to purchase something were to come in one at a time, to guarantee privacy. Most of the girls went in pairs and spent about 10 minutes with Shelley. Since my roommate and I hosted the party we were presented with a free gift worth 10 percent of what the others had spent. Yeah, you think I'm going to tell you what we bought.

I'm not sure if Tupperware parties are what you graduate from if you spend your youth hosting Sexware parties. I hope not. There's only so much you can do with household containers.

Showcase for wimmin in music

by Erin O'Brien

"It's just about women," said Leah Abramson.

Abramson is one of the artists behind Wimmin In Music, a series to showcase talented, independent female musicians. The series was organized by Abramson and her roommate Glenna. As local musicians they found that open-mike venues tended to be dominated by men and wanted to create an opportunity for women to achieve recognition in an environment where they are not the minority. Abramson feels that there is a need for such a place in Victoria. She said they want to create "a supportive atmosphere for women to be creative and not feel intimidated."

Wimmin In Music takes the "men" out of "women" to celebrate music that is exclusively female. As Abramson said, "It's just about women."

They plan to have monthly shows, creating an ongoing venue for local women. The first show is this Friday, Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. at the Solstice Café and will feature Abramson, Glenna, and Anne Schaefer, another local musician. All three are singer-songwriters with their own distinctive styles. Future shows will feature different artists each time and possibly an open stage. Entrance is by donation. The Solstice Café is located at 529 Pandora Avenue, between Government and Wharf.

Himalaya is stunning

photo provided

Karma Wangiel as Passang and Thilen Lhondup as Tinle star in *Himalaya*.

by Jeff Andrew

In the Dolpo region of Nepal time and the calendar year don't matter. To the people who live here scratching a rough existence out of the mountainside life is measured by the wind and the sun. Telling time means knowing when the snow comes.

This is the world presented to us in *Himalaya*. The film documents a turbulent time in the lives of a tribe of salt farmers, tough people living in one of the most unforgiving places on earth. Every year they lead a caravan of yaks on a gruelling trek over the mountains to trade their salt for grains in order to live for another year.

At the centre of the film is a duel between two leaders, both stubborn oxes of men. Tinle is the village chief. As the film opens we learn that his son Lhakpo, who was next in line to be chief, has been killed in a climbing trip. His death was an accident, but Tinle cannot accept this. Instead, he blames Karma, Lhakpo's best friend and companion on the trip. With Lhakpo gone, Karma is the obvious choice to lead the next trading run, but Tinle doesn't trust him. So, despite being old and gray, Tinle decides to lead the caravan himself. He is racing time, old age and the rapidly failing loyalty of his tribe but he has one thing Karma doesn't – an unshakeable faith that his gods and the way of the land will guide him through trouble. "The mountains are our allies," he says. "They will recognize us."

Indeed, it is the mountains which are the strongest characters here. They provide the backdrop for the story but their majesty and breathtaking beauty are such that at times they nearly overwhelm the human drama unfolding atop their peaks. It is in their presentation and in the magnificent colours of the landscape that the film really shines. Falling shadows display the contrast between different shades of daylight. We see the steam rising off a sparkling, impossibly blue mountain lake, and feel the blanket of white snow descending in a storm.

Himalaya falls somewhere between fiction and documentary. The actors are real people from Nepal and director Eric Valli lived in a monastery there for several years. As a result the film provides all the realism of a documentary without the sense of a camera intruding into someone else's culture. Watching it, we become completely lost in their world. We squint at the bright sun, hear the wind rustling through the grass. We feel the earth trembling under the weight of a herd of yaks. We are there.

In this film time is suspended. There is no context, no sense of what's happening beyond the mountains. It doesn't matter. This is a story of people surviving, scraping life out of barren rock. In a thousand years, it will be a myth, part of their cultural history. Watching *Himalaya*, we are watching a legend unfold.

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Fear and loathing at the MetroTown Holiday Inn

by Simon Glezos

I should have just hung up when I realized it was Ben on the phone. Ben Pearson is a fellow journalist with SFU's 'The Peak' and rarely a harbinger of good.

"Hey Simon, I just got tickets in the mail to be in a television focus group. You want to come?"

I immediately tensed up, adrenaline coursing through my body.

"Are you insane?" I yelled into the phone. "Voluntarily participate in a marketing exercise? Why don't we just hand over our souls while we're at it?"

"You're being paranoid again Simon."

"I am not. You show up to do one focus group, the next thing you know you're hooked up to some fiendish mind control device while they force-feed you episodes of Bob Saget's new sitcom!"

"Do you want to come or not?"

"Yeah sure."

Well what else could I do? I was, after all, a hard-hitting investigative journalist, and here was an opportunity to wade hip deep into the belly of the beast that had fallen right in my lap, thanks to the wonders of mass mailing. We're talking about a focus group, one of the only opportunities the average citizen has to have their voices heard in the hustle and bustle of modern life. It's the mechanism that says that what the world is crying out for is reality television and the Olsen Twins. A chance to really have a say without having to, you know, vote or something. How could I pass this up?

So that night we loaded up the car with rations and weaponry (these were marketing types we're talking about) and headed off to the MetroTown Holiday Inn to meet our destiny.

The first disturbing fact of the night (one of many) was the line. A long line, twisting down the hall and requiring us to wait upwards for 20 minutes. This meant that not only were there this many people willing to waste a Sunday night to go to a focus group, but they were willing to line up for the privilege. We fought the instinct to cut and run.

We reached the front of the line and a young, Maitre D' type woman asked us how many in our party and what our occupations were. I almost said 'investigative journalist' but, being a professional, I caught myself at the last moment. She handed us a pen each and a sheaf of papers in which to record our opinions and directed us to our seats. Chairs were set up in a square around a central bank of four television screens, bringing to mind some Orwellian indoctrination centre.

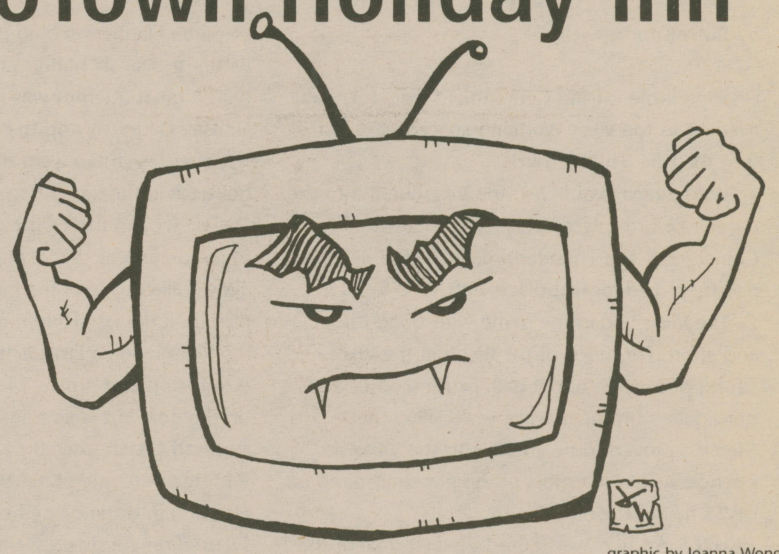
Chairs were set up in a square around a central bank of four television screens, bringing to mind some Orwellian indoctrination centre. More disturbing than this, however, was the lack of free food.

More disturbing than this, however, was the lack of free food.

The crowd was...well...how to say this kindly? Try to think Saturday afternoon at your neighbourhood Wal-Mart. Mostly older, a lot of families (guess what we're doing tonight kids?), evidence of relationships with television bordering on sexual levels of intimacy. The demography did however contain a surprisingly large contingent of young hipsters who looked like they had better things to do but were there out of a sense of loyalty to the box.

They showed us two programs, which I can only recount in vague detail, their sheer vapidity affecting my ability to take accurate notes. The first was a one-hour drama entitled 'Soul Mates,' a romantic thriller about a hypnotherapist who falls in love with one of her patients who may have been her lover in a past life. It was, I assure you, exactly as entertaining as being beaten with heavy gardening implements for an hour, a fact I conveyed to the shows producers. If you never see 'Soul Mates' on television you owe me not just your thanks but money, for taking that particular bullet for you. The second was a sitcom from about 10 years ago, which they showed to assess the potential popularity of the actress who played Rhoda on 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show' (Yeah, like I remembered her name).

The underlying rationale of focus grouping is the same theoretical precept that allows CNN to call Nebraska for Bush after 3% of the total vote is in; namely that one can extrapolate broad societal trends from small, representative sample groups. There's pretty strong statistical grounding for believing this. For example if 1000 people watch 'Soul Mates' and 999 of them want to claw their eyes out, you can probably assume that it's not going to play well. The danger, of course, is too liberally applying this principle from too small a sample group. So, say the old guy at the end of my row turns out to think that what the world needs more of is shows staring supporting characters from 70's sitcoms, well than 'Who can turn the world on with her smile...?'



graphic by Joanna Wong

Of course the main problem isn't the potential inaccuracy of such endeavours but rather the fact that there is the possibility of any accuracy whatsoever. Shouldn't we find it a little disturbing that the North American cultural mind is so uniform that the opinions of a group of people who have nothing better to do on a Sunday night can be so effortlessly inferred across entire populations? Either we're in the beginning stages of some sort of collective hive mind, or we're so indiscriminating that we're willing to watch whatever's shiny and in front of us.

Either we're in the beginning stages of some sort of collective hive mind, or we're so indiscriminating that we're willing to watch whatever's shiny and in front of us.

These are the reasons that producers think they can get away with atrocities like 'Who wants to marry a millionaire?' and 'Nash Bridges.'

In light of this disturbing trend we really should rededicate ourselves to a fracturing of the collective unconscious. We should become so unyielding and disparate in our interests that demographers tear their hair out and new specialty cable channels have to start targeting us by name. We should create a sort of cultural moving target, an anarchic, erratic social process that makes efforts like focus grouping as effective as a cavalry charge in the age of aerial warfare. Force the Hollywood producers to seek quality simply out of sheer frustration.

Because trust me, if we leave the future of our art and culture to idiots like me and the rest of the focus group it's going to be nothing but 'Soul Mates' for the rest of eternity. Which means I have to go searching for a red-hot poker to jab into my eyes.

Degrassi with small hair and cell phones

by Pamela King

Ten years later and Joey Jeremiah is bald with no fedora. Here we are, in the twenty first century, and the kids from Degrassi are all grown up. It seems like just yesterday that Spike was pregnant. Evidently, it wasn't yesterday.

Degrassi's focus on the issue of teen pregnancy is old enough to go to junior high. *Degrassi: The Next Generation* kicked off on Sunday and what better way to introduce the new cast than giving their story a sub-plot based around the original kids' ten year reunion? The result was a nice blend of appearances from the gang and a message about the dangers of cyber stalkers. In usual Degrassi fashion it was cheesy and overly earnest about socially relevant issues.

The kids of the new Degrassi are Canadian prepubescent like those on Degrassi Junior High, only without the kitschy eighties gear. And they have cell phones. And they're all proficient Internet surfers. It's Degrassi turned electronic. But it's captivating.

The first episode manages to confront an important issue in the lives of young people today: Internet freaks. Young Emma (Spike's daughter, for those who don't know) befriends a boy on the net who she believes to be sixteen and she agrees to meet him. As it turns out (surprise, surprise), he is actually a grown man. Thought-provoking and frankly terrifying events ensue. I know that I, for one, am much more weary of chat rooms as a result of watching the hour long premiere.

The episode was filled with all kinds of twists and turns and a lot of suspense. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed it. I began with all kinds of preconceptions and assumptions. Before it began I said, "A show as classic as Degrassi just can't be recreated!" As it turns out, I was not the only one with these kinds of ideas. All my friends felt the same way.

The kids of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* have some big shoes to fill. It's going to be hard to top bad hair and tacky clothes, but I think they have it in them. And maybe fifteen or so years from now the kids of today will be viewing the first episode of Degrassi: The Legacy Continues. They'll laugh at how stupid the kids of The Next Generation looked, completely unaware that anybody preceded them. And all that will be left will be a dusty fedora, the reminder of the beginning of something beautiful. Joey Jeremiah, no matter how good *Degrassi: The Next Generation* is, we won't forget you.

the Martlet photo contest

Think you can take a better photo than *this*?

C'mon, give yourself some credit. How about bringing down some of your campus shots and we'll give a prize to whoever's we think is the best (not that they all won't be). Plus you'll get your picture published in the *Martlet*.

How about that?

Thunderbirds take out Vikes in women's soccer

by Ruth Knoop

Disappointment filled Centennial Stadium Friday evening as the Vikes Women's soccer team lost 3-0 to the UBC Thunderbirds.

With a record of 3-2-2, the Vikes went into the game in fourth place overall in the Canada West Conference. The Thunderbirds record of 4-1-3 had them tied for first place with TWU Spartans.

The Vikes began the game with good force and effort. For much of the first half the Vikes had strong possession of the ball. Extreme force and quickness from the players, especially Amelie Mercier, proved to be an asset to the Vikes offence. As a result most of the play transpired on UBC's half of the field.

UBC's Anjali Nayar scored the first goal of the game 15 minutes into the play. 16 minutes later the Thunderbirds received a lucky break when a kick by Kristine Jack slithered past Vikes goaltender Morgan Leverman.

Despite the two early goals against them the Vikes continued to play well throughout the first half of the game. They continued to dominate the play but could not penetrate the Thunderbird's defence. Thirty-two minutes into the game, UVic had it's best scoring chance when Gillian Bigsby beat Sian Bagshawe, UBC's goaltender, only to be rejected by the top corner of the goal post. Defence lacked the oomph that it had in past games, but Kim Harper was exceptional in play, rarely letting any member of the opposing team past her.

Sarah Nannery scored the third goal for UBC with just over six minutes remaining in the first half. A great attempt was made by defenceman Lindsay Gaunt to stop the ball from entering the net after Leverman went down, but she couldn't get back in time.

The second half of the game proved to be disappointing as the Vikes appeared to have lost almost all control of the ball. UBC dominated the play until the last 10 minutes of the game, when the Vikes made a last-ditch effort. Both Kate Hambleton and Amelie Mercier made good shots on the goal but were denied access by Bagshawe.

Head Coach Josee Bureau was disappointed with the outcome of her team's performance. Heading into the game her thoughts were focused on consistency and whether or not the girls would be on or off in play. "We have a very young team. We are not mature enough to be consistent – that comes with experience."

However, despite the loss Bureau remains optimistic. "There are lots more games to be played. We just need to discipline ourselves during practices."

Co-Captain Gillian Bigsby agreed with Bureau and was very disappointed with the outcome of the game.

"Our heads weren't in it from the start. We just were not going out with that killer instinct. We'll just have to keep our heads high and come out on top in Sunday's game."

Rookie Amelie Mercier, one of the outstanding players from Friday's game, stated afterwards "we need to put this one behind us. We played physically, and I tried to play hard, but they [UBC] just didn't give us any room. Hopefully we will make up on Sunday."

And indeed they did! Sunday afternoon, the girls made up for Friday's loss as they out-shot, out-played and out-scored the University of Regina 5-0 . Mercier exploded for four goals in the victory and was named Canada West Female Soccer Player of the Week for her stand-out efforts.

Presently, the Vikes are fifth in the Canada West Conference with a record of four wins, three losses and two ties, with five games remaining in the regular season. Only the top four teams will advance to the playoffs.

photo by Betty Krawczak

The Vikes and Thunderbirds faced off in season soccer action at Centennial Stadium last weekend.

Gettin' down the mountain with the Dirty Girlz

photo by Julia Smith

by Julia Smith

British Columbia has experienced a mountain-biking boom in the last few years, and Victoria hasn't been exempt from it.

As the lower mainland cleared trails and Whistler built a park, Victoria also developed numerous mountain biking paradises.

The locations are diverse: Millstream, Higlands, Burnt Bridge, Can-Am Trails, Hartland Surplus Lands and Mount Work Park.

Kristine Morris, a third-year commerce student at UVic, is a member of Dirty Girlz, a mountain biking club for women.

The club's purpose is to organize rides for women in order to meet other female riders.

"There aren't many women riders, and people were finding they only knew the girls they met on the trails," Morris explained. "Most girls were just going with their boyfriends."

Dirty Girlz schedules rides for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. It also offers bike maintenance clinics and other perks, such as store discounts.

Dirty Girlz usually alternate rides between The Hartland Dump and Millstream. Harris said these are the most popular riding areas.

The Hartland dump offers a variety of riding from cross-country to technical downhill. It has ratings from green circles (that's nice and easy, for those of you who didn't know) to double and even triple-black diamonds (uh, that's crazy and hard).

It is well maintained by the South Island Moutain Bike Society (SIMBS) and the Capital Regional District. To get to the Hartland dump, follow West Saanich Road to Mount Work by Prospect Lake.

Millstream, in the Highlands, also offers a variety of riding, but, as Harris warns, "There is more uphill for the ratio of downhill."

As an aside, she also adds, "I think it's technically illegal to ride there."

Since the trails are on private property you will find signs warning against riding. Harris said that this was for insurance reasons, but that nobody was stopping the riders. Since it isn't a park it isn't maintained as well as Hartland is.

New trails are always being built, and the park is spreading out. It is suggested that new riders get a map, available at most local bike shops, or take someone who knows the area.

For more information about mountain biking in the Victoria area visit the South Island Mountain Bike Society's web site at www.simbs.com or visit www.dirtygirlzbikeclub.ca.

Stephen MacDonald
A multi-award winning student, star athlete and a volunteer mentor with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Canada
Silver Award Winner 2001

Call for Nominations

High marks aren't limited to the classroom. UVic students also excel in the community, on sports teams and in the arts. If you know a UVic student who is outstanding in both the classroom and the community, consider nominating him or her for a Blue and Gold Circle Award.

UVic Blue and Gold Circle Awards

This Award honours students who maintain high academic standards while volunteering with community groups or participating in sports or fine arts. Winners are announced in the spring.

To nominate a UVic student for a Blue and Gold Circle Award, call UVic's Student Awards and Financial Aid office at 721-8424. Nominations close November 16th. www.uvic.ca

University of Victoria *challenge minds change worlds*

X-country Vikes take a run around Beacon Hill Park

by Iain McLetchie

Beacon Hill Park was the scene Saturday for the UVic cross-country squad's annual Beacon Hill Invitational Run. The yearly event functions as the only "home" event in the Vikes schedule, and as such, the team pinpoints it on their calendars.

A two-kilometre track is laid out around the park and the racers run a set number of laps around the track to fulfill the meet distance. The 5K women's race takes two-and-a-half laps and the men's 8K race is four laps long.

The day started out with the women's 5K race. The run proved to be amicable to the UVic runners. According to Fougner, all the women ran well and the results showed it.

After running the first laps with the University of Calgary's Kristen Bennand, Vikes runners Liz Ramage and Heather Goodfellow pushed the pace in the final lap to pull away from Bennand and make it a two-horse race to the finish line.

Ramage managed to outpace Goodfellow and won the race by 13 seconds, in a time of 18 minutes and 26 seconds.

Goodfellow was second at 18:39, with Bennand rounding out the threesome at 18:45.

Scoring wasn't solely based on individual times. While the top three finishers in both races were recognized, team results were also tabulated using a reverse scoring system.

Each team takes the finishing positions of its top five finishers and compares them to the top five finishers from other teams. The team that ends up with the lowest point total wins the event.

UVic soundly thrashed the field by placing its best six runners in the top ten. Tiffany Evans finished fourth overall with time of 18:53, with Christina Heisterman in sixth (19:00), Andrea Depol ninth (19:16), and Nancy Fedoruk tenth (19:18).

This impressive team effort put UVic firmly atop the team standings with a group total of 22 points. The University of Saskatchewan was second with 58 points.

The men's 8K race followed the women's, and it was a classic.

UVic's Jerry Ziak and Saskatchewan's Jamie Epp pulled away from the field early in the going and went head-to-head the rest of the way, blowing away the rest of the field in the process.

Ziak, who won the 500-contestant Salem Invitational in Oregon two weekends ago, pulled away from Epp on the first incline of the final lap and cruised to victory in a time of 24:29.

> I trained too hard early in the week and felt it a bit. I led the first lap and felt good but didn't have much jump.
>
> *Jerry Ziak*

It was a solid race for Ziak, although he didn't feel too swift early on.

"I trained too hard early in the week and felt it a bit," Ziak said. "I led the first lap and felt good but didn't have much jump."

Epp caught up to Ziak after the first lap and the two paced each other for the next two laps.

"Jamie caught up and I decided to focus on relaxation but also on staying with him," said Ziak. "I felt tired but also felt that I could handle him."

The two stayed together until Ziak "put the gap on the hill" on the final lap and distanced himself for the victory.

Epp was impressed with the race, and with Ziak's effort.

"It was a really good race," said Epp, who finished second with a time of 24:37. "He just pulled away and there was nothing I could do."

Kris Swanson finished in fifth place at 25:38, a result which Fougner was happy with.

"[Swanson] is our number two runner, but he's sick right now."

The University of Alberta finished first with 47 points, even though they didn't have a runner place in the top five.

UVic placed second with 59 points, while Saskatchewan was third with 65.

UVic coach Brent Fougner conceded that it was a fairly easy course since the park is realitively flat.

"It's not a real challenging course," said Fougner. "But you have to be fit to run it due to the short hills and inclines. We'll definitely see tougher courses."

Ziak agreed with Fougner's sentiments.

"It's not the toughest course, and it's faster because the ground isn't wet. The hills do put some strength element into it, though."

That aside, the race was an excellent test for the UVic team, and was a solid stepping-stone for the BC championships which take place on Oct. 27 at Vancouver's Jericho Beach Park.

New Balance Vikes Invitational Cross Country meet results

Women's 5,000m

Liz Ramage	University of Victoria	18:26
Heather Goodfellow	University of Victoria	18:39
Kristen Bennand	University of Calgary	18:45
Tiffany Evans	University of Victoria	18:52
Edyta Sieminska	University of Saskatchewan	18:54
Christina Heisterman	University of Victoria	19:00
Jamie Golding	University of Saskatchewan	19:00
Tania Vander Meulen	University of Calgary	19:13
Andrea Depol	University of Victoria	19:16
Nancy Fedoruk	University of Victoria	19:18

Team Results

1. University of Victoria	22
2. University of Saskatchewan	58
3. University of Calgary	66
4. University of Alberta	87

Men's 8,000m

Jerry Ziak	University of Victoria	24:29
Jamie Epp	University of Saskatchewan	24:37
Steve MacIntyre	University of Saskatchewan	25:13
Craig Odermatt	Vikes Alumni	25:34
Kris Swanson	University of Victoria	25:38
Dallas Raudebaugh	University of Alberta	25:50
Kelsey Kelemen	University of Alberta	25:59
James Morrison	Vikes Alumni	26:00
Paul Tichelaar	University of Alberta	26:05
Sam Pawluk	Kajaks	26:11

Team Results

1. University of Alberta	47
2. University of Victoria	59
3. University of Saskatchewan	65
4. Vikes Alumni	70
5. University of Calgary	104

Do you like sports? I do.
You know, my first sporting event was a magical moment.
I thought, "Damn, wouldn't it be fun to jump this railing and beat up the referee?"

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· Wednesday - 35¢ Prawns
· Sunday - Buffet Brunch 11 - 2pm
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Cold Beer & Wine off-sales 7 days a week

Playing favourites in McKinnon Gym

photo by Richard Warrington

by Craig Battle

Three years ago McKinnon Gym was a lot bigger. I swear. The ceilings were higher, the courts wider and the championship banners longer. Even the hoops were a foot or so above regulation. Or at least that's what it felt like.

When I started covering games I sat at the press table with the guy from the *Times Colonist* who wouldn't talk to me. But who cared? The players subbing into the game had to kneel in front of the table and it felt like some type of reverse royalty. I watched the game, bit my pen and tried to look official the whole time.

Back then I knew more than just the names of the players on the rosters of the Vikes basketball teams. I had the program memorised. I knew positions and statistics. I knew hometowns and high schools. I knew heights like you wouldn't believe.

But as I walked into the gym last Friday night, a few minutes into the women's exhibition home opener against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns, I had one question on my mind.

Shields is currently taking a year off. Anderson, McDonald and Lobb, as well as interim head coach Brian Cheng, are all that's left of the team I knew and loved three years ago.

So, was it sad? Not really. Did I cry? No. In fact I suddenly became interested in seeing who could do what and how they'd all fit together. It was, in effect, a brand new team totally different from any Vikes basketball squad I'd seen before. This was going to be great.

And it was. Sure, they played a little, well, a lot like a team still learning how to play with and off one another. It was the first exhibition game of the season after all.

Throughout the game I found myself mumbling things like, *Oh, come on. Passing angles. Think passing angles. Why throw it across the key? Get back. Jesus, get back. Fall on it. Hit the floor. Oh, nice. Oh, that's sweet.*

Lethbridge, a team seemingly constantly in a rebuilding phase, held the lead through much of the first half. They had won only one game over the past two seasons combined – a grand total of 60 games – and desperately wanted an early season victory.

As I walked into the gym last Friday night I had one question on my mind. "Okay, wait. Which team is UVic?"

"Okay, wait. Which team is UVic?"

Sure, UVic's jerseys said "Victoria" on them and everything, but I was looking for familiar faces. And couldn't find any.

Well that's not entirely true. I found some. Like Lindsay Anderson the sole remaining starter from the national champion team two seasons ago. Then I recognised Lindsay McDonald, Krystal O'Byrne and Kim Lobb. And Allison Roberts, too. Of course, we went to elementary school together.

That makes five players total. So, then, who were the other eight? Why had I never seen them before? What was going on here? Was I losing my mind?

Hello?

The players I'd come to expect, like Kim Johnson, Lindsay Brooke and Emily King, had almost all moved on. Even head coach Kathy

The Pronghorns held a six-point halftime lead that swelled and dwindled at various times during the second half. The Vikes didn't mount a consistent charge until late in the second half when second-year guard Jennifer Diana (who my friends and I began calling "The Equaliser") hit three straight three pointers to lift her team to a slim one-point lead.

However, the Pronghorns had enough left to hold off the Vikes and shooting guard Heidi Sommerville nailed two free throws to ice the game with only eight seconds remaining.

Was I sad? Not really. Did I cry? No. I was actually, to tell the truth, excited about what had gone on. The Vikes didn't win and, by all accounts, this is surely a rebuilding year. But that doesn't mean the season will be boring.

In fact, I'm willing to bet that it won't.

come and write sports for *the Martlet.*

SUB B011

Vikes weekend roundup

by Iain Mcletchie

Women's Rugby

The UVic Vikes met the UBC Thunderbirds on Saturday at Wallace Field. The Vikes dominated the first half of the game, leading at half time by a score of 17-3.

The Thunderbirds rallied in the second half with two tries, but a final try from the Vikes' Sarah Hanna in the last minutes of the game guaranteed the 27-17 UVic win.

The Vikes' next home game is Nov. 10 against SFU at Wallace Field.

Men's Rugby

BCRU Premier League
UVic Vikes 36 Meraloma 33

A hard-fought battle on a chilly fall day at Wallace field saw Meraloma come on strong with three tries in the first half. Good kicking by UVic's Ed Fairhurst and a try by Matt Cohen kept the score 26-19 in Meraloma's favour at the half.

The second half was more to UVic's liking as Cohen and Dave Psutka added tries. A pressure kick by Fairhurst at the end of the game gave the Vikes a 36-33 win.

Men's Soccer

Canada West Regular Season
UVic Vikes 0 UBC Thunderbirds 2

The UBC Thunderbirds dominated this game, coming on strong in the first half, with a goal by Graeme Poole before the ten-minute mark.

Although Jordan Robinson did a great job of holding UBC off for the remainder of the game, Julian Phillips managed to get a shot past him in the final minute of the second half, making the final score 2-0 in UBC's favour.

The UVic Vikes men's soccer team's next home game is on October 25 against the University of Lethbridge at Centennial Stadium.

Women's Basketball

UVic Alumni 78 UVic Vikes 69

One night after their season opener against the Lethbridge Pronghorns (see full story at left), the current UVic women's basketball team came out hard against a very talented group of Vikes Alumni, taking the lead at numerous stages in the match.

However, the alumni found their groove and developed a comfortable lead as the game grew to a close.

Lindsay Anderson was the Vikes point-leader for the second night in a row with 26 points; her teammate Lindsay McDonald had 20 points. Three-time national champion and WBNA player Kelly Boucher led the Alumni with 20 points.

Men's Basketball

House-Laughton Hoops Classic @ Carleton University
UVic 67 St. Francis Xavier 63
UVic 65 Carleton 70
UVic 61 Bishops 57

UVic took the ball to their Canadian counterparts at the annual classic tournament, playing hard in each game and pulling out some tough victories.

Vikes Keith Bustard and Shaun Doherty were named tournament all stars.

This week in UVic sports

HOME

WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY	@UVIC TURF FIELD	
CANADA WEST CHAMPIONSHIP		
Fri. Oct. 19	4:00PM	vs. CALGARY
Sat. Oct. 20	11:00AM	vs. ALBERTA
Sun. Oct. 21	9:00AM	vs. MANITOBA
Sun. Oct. 21	1:00PM	vs. UBC
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	@MCKINNON GYM	
Fri, Sat. Oct. 19,20	6:30PM	vs. WESTERN UNIVERSITY
MEN'S BASKETBALL	@MCKINNON GYM	
Fri. Oct. 19	8:15PM	vs. SASKATCHEWAN
Sat. Oct. 20	8:15PM	vs. CALGARY
SWIMMING (M,W)	SENIOR CIRCUIT #1	VICTORIA

AWAY

WOMEN'S RUGBY	@ CANADA WEST CHAMPIONSHIP
Oct. 18-21	UBC, VANCOUVER
WOMEN'S SOCCER	@UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
Oct. 19	REGINA, SK
MEN'S RUGBY	@ RAVENS RFC
Oct. 20	VANCOUVER.
SOCCER (M,W)	@ UNIV. OF SASKATCHEWAN
Oct. 20	SASKATOON, SK
ROWING (M,W)	@ HEAD OF THE CHARLES
Oct. 21	BOSTON, MA
SOCCER (M,W)	@ UNIV. OF ALBERTA
Oct. 21	EDMONTON, AB

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

Victoria Hindu Parishad presents Diwali 2001! With a variety of Indian classical and semi-classical dances and Hindi and Punjabi songs and other musical entertainment at University Centre Auditorium on **October 20** at 7 p.m. Tix $10 adults, $8 students, $6 children under 12. Tix from Island Video (475-1212).

We're having a Scottish Ceildh! Join the Caledonian Club at their firtst party of the year. There will be music, dancing, and a live bagpiper! **Oct. 23** from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Michele Pujol Rm in the SUB. Tickets are $2 in advance, $3 at the door.

UVic's Unicef Club is organizing a great Hallowe'en pumpkin sale and carving contest ($3 entry fee)! Drop by the front of the SUB from **Oct. 29 to 31** and win some awesome prizes.

OFF CAMPUS

Friday, Oct. 26, Progressive Assembly presents DJ AMtrak at Sugar nightclub for a Hallowe'en celebration. Special guests include Malcolm Charles and Trever. Advance tix $10 at Boomtown Records, A&B Sound, Stylus and Retrowear. Prizes for spookiest costumes! Come enjoy Toronto's Queen of House, DJ AMtrak at Sugar.

Shambhala training: please join us for Level I, **Oct. 26 and 27**. Friday night talk free at 7:30 p.m. Entire program $75, includes lunch on Sat. and a reception. Discounts for seniors and students. to pre-register call 383-9108. Victoria Shambhala Meditation Centre, 2033 Belmont Ave.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer opportunities at George Jay Elementary School. Gearge Jay would like to extend an invitation to students who are pursuing a career in Education or Child and Youth Care. Students will have the opportunity to gain experience with children both individually or in groups in a lively, culturally diverse, inner-city school community. For more info and an appointment, please contact Tessa Lloyd, at 385-3381.

Volunteers wanted by Blanshard Community Centre for two youth programs. Training provided. For information phone Kristine/Shayne at 388-7696 or Sylvia at 382-0627.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UVic students: you may qualify for a FREE ICBC-sponsored one-day cycling traffic skills course. This is a limited-time offer with only a few spaces available, so act now. Visit the Bike to Work Society website at www.biketoworkvictoria.ca or call the hotline at 413-8000.

Radical books were burned in the 50s, are radical videos next? See some at Haultain Video at 1508 Haultain St.

EMPLOYMENT

Travel – teach English: job guarantee. 5 day/40hr **(Nov. 14-18)** TESOL Teacher cert. course (or by corresp.) FREE info pack 1-888-270-2941 www.canadianglobal.net

FOR SALE

Toyota 4-Runner for sale! Student loan people are forcing us to sell our beautiful '89 Toyota 4-Runner. Come see it! 388-9138.

'87 Dodge Duster, air-cared, $800 o.b.o. Call Benny at 382-2337.

Discount tire and auto repairs. Guaranteed tires from $10. 383-1050.

TUTORS

English/Philosophy tutor, $15/hr. Call Carlos at 704-6683 or email serravet@accglobal.net

HEY YOU

Lightbulbs needed. Donations greatly appreciated. Please call 920-9700.

To the "good Christian" girl who sublets my apartment: if your God knew what a slob you were, He wouldn't let you into His house either. And I may be a heathen but I'm pretty sure perjury is a sin.

BILLBOARD RATES

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
hey you!	$1/issue

Gotta run, but I'll get to you, don't worry!

You had a heart of leaves outside your door and there's a heart of gold in your beautiful body. Thank you for living in truth with me.

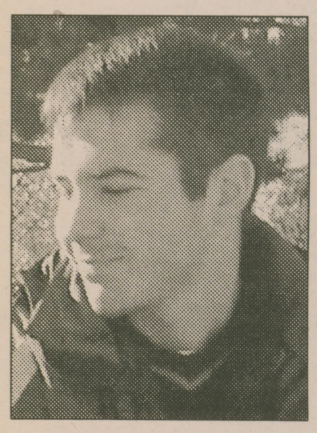
NEED PHONE SERVICE? GET IT WITH CAN-TALK

NO CREDIT CHECKS
1-866-203-7545

ON THE SPOT

How would you feel about a 2 cent increase in paper prices on campus to get Weyerhaeuser paper out of the UVSS?

compiled by Ruth Knoop and Horia Coman



Jeff Williams
1st year geophysics

Why do they want it out of the UVSS? I guess I would be fine with that.

Ryan Boyle
2nd year education

I would be fine with that because Weyerhaeuser is bad. They have bad forest practices. They are evil!

Cecily Frost
3rd year pre-commerce

I don't even know anything about it. I don't know. If they are going to be getting money, it shouldn't be from the students. We have enough problems paying tuition.

Amanda Delong
3rd year english

I would totally go for it. It is great! It is good for the environment.

want a free cd?

it's super easy!

just come down to the martlet office (sub b011) and answer the follwing question:

how many people attended martlet arts editor eliana's sexwear party?

hurry in

the first two people with correct answers will be the lucky winners

WEEKEND SPORTS ACTION

VIKES Athletics
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Basketball
Oct 19-20
Fri & Sat

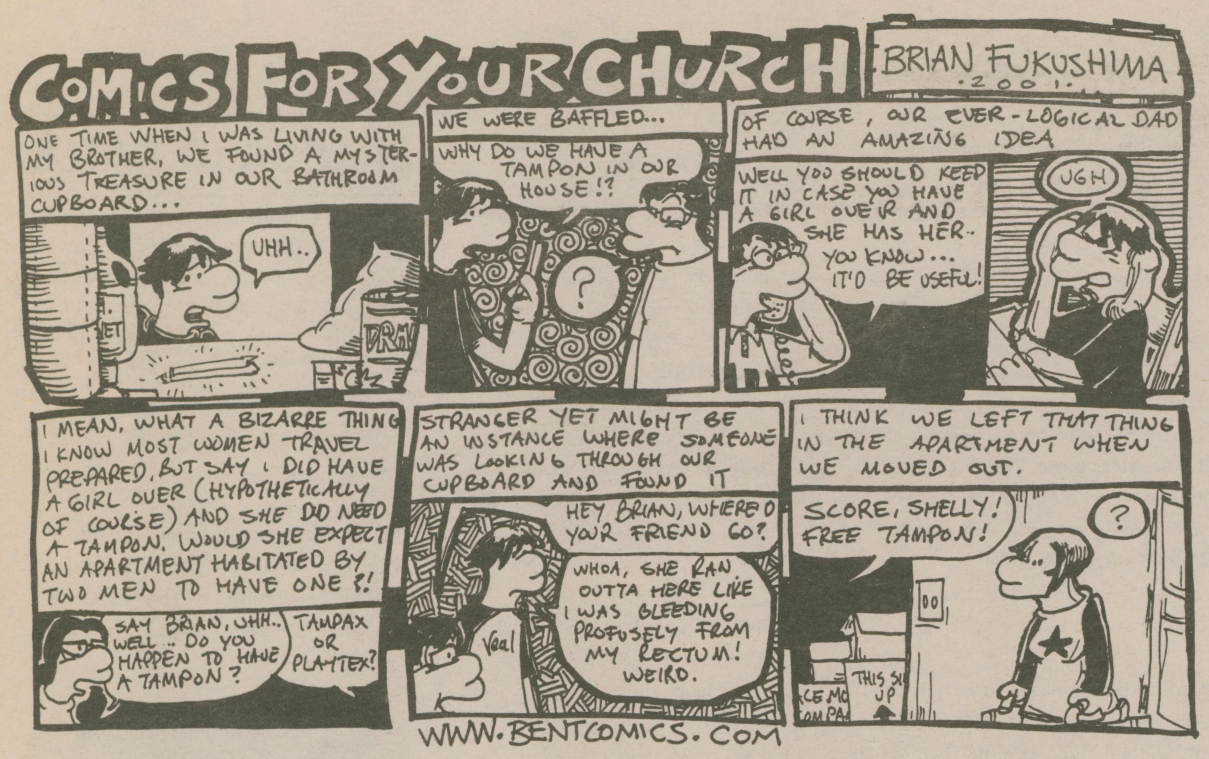
Women vs Western Ontario - both games at 6:30
Men vs Saskatchewan
Men vs Calgary - both games at 8:15
at McKinnon Gym

Field Hockey
Oct 19-21
Fri to Sun

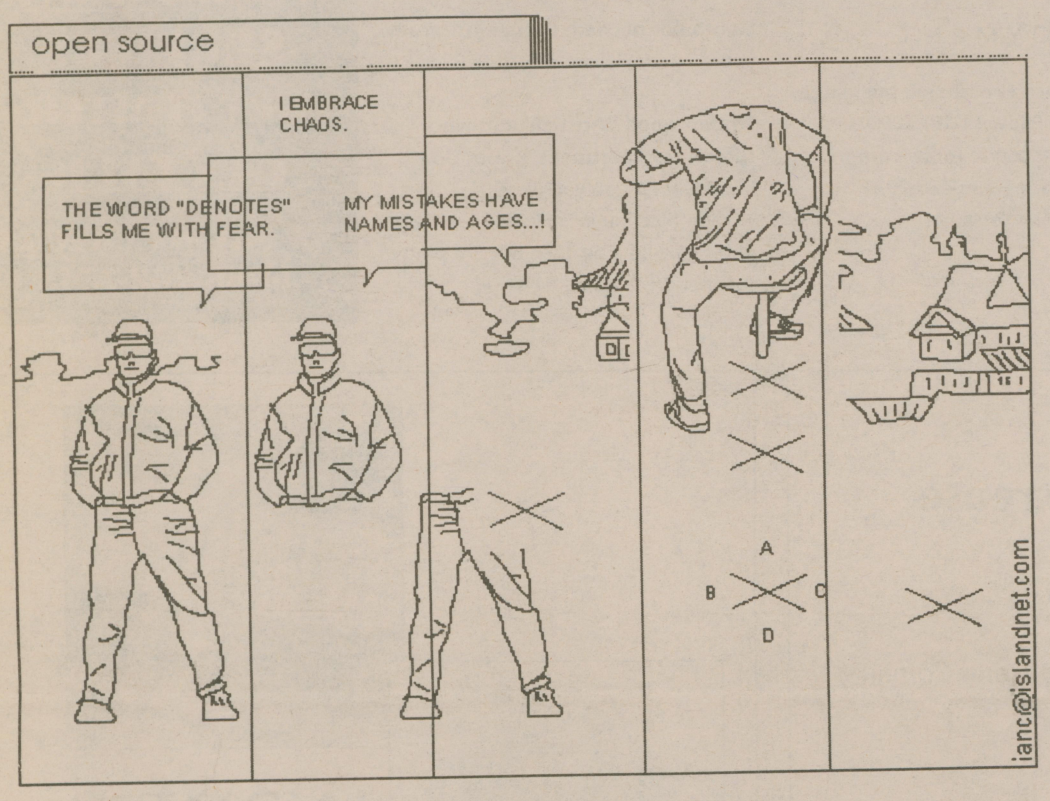
Canada West Field Hockey Championship
Fri. vs Calgary @ 4 pm, Sat. vs Alberta @ 11am
Sun. vs Manitoba @ 9 am & Sun. vs UBC @ 1pm

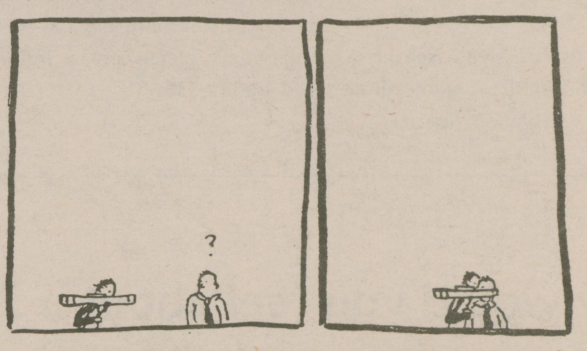
all games played on the Field Hockey Pitch

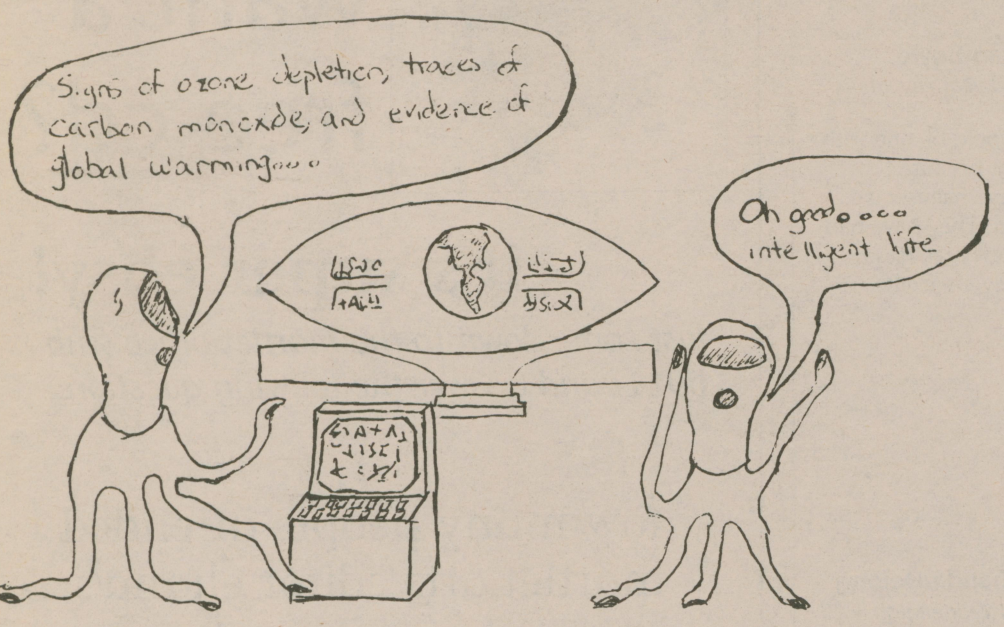
721-8406 www.uvic.ca/vikes


COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH
BRIAN FUKUSHIMA
.2001.
ONE TIME WHEN I WAS LIVING WITH MY BROTHER, WE FOUND A MYSTERIOUS TREASURE IN OUR BATHROOM CUPBOARD...
UHH..
WE WERE BAFFLED...
WHY DO WE HAVE A TAMPON IN OUR HOUSE!?
OF COURSE, OUR EVER-LOGICAL DAD HAD AN AMAZING IDEA
WELL YOU SHOULD KEEP IT IN CASE YOU HAVE A GIRL OVER AND SHE HAS HER.. YOU KNOW... IT'D BE USEFUL!
UGH
I MEAN, WHAT A BIZARRE THING I KNOW MOST WOMEN TRAVEL PREPARED, BUT SAY I DID HAVE A GIRL OVER (HYPOTHETICALLY OF COURSE) AND SHE DO NEED A TAMPON. WOULD SHE EXPECT AN APARTMENT HABITATED BY TWO MEN TO HAVE ONE?!
SAY BRIAN, UHH.. WELL.. DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A TAMPON?
TAMPAX OR PLAYTEX?
STRANGER YET MIGHT BE AN INSTANCE WHERE SOMEONE WAS LOOKING THROUGH OUR CUPBOARD AND FOUND IT
HEY BRIAN, WHERE'D YOUR FRIEND GO?
WHOA, SHE RAN OUTTA HERE LIKE I WAS BLEEDING PROFUSELY FROM MY RECTUM! WEIRD.
YEAH
I THINK WE LEFT THAT THING IN THE APARTMENT WHEN WE MOVED OUT.
SCORE, SHELLY! FREE TAMPON!
WWW.BENTCOMICS.COM

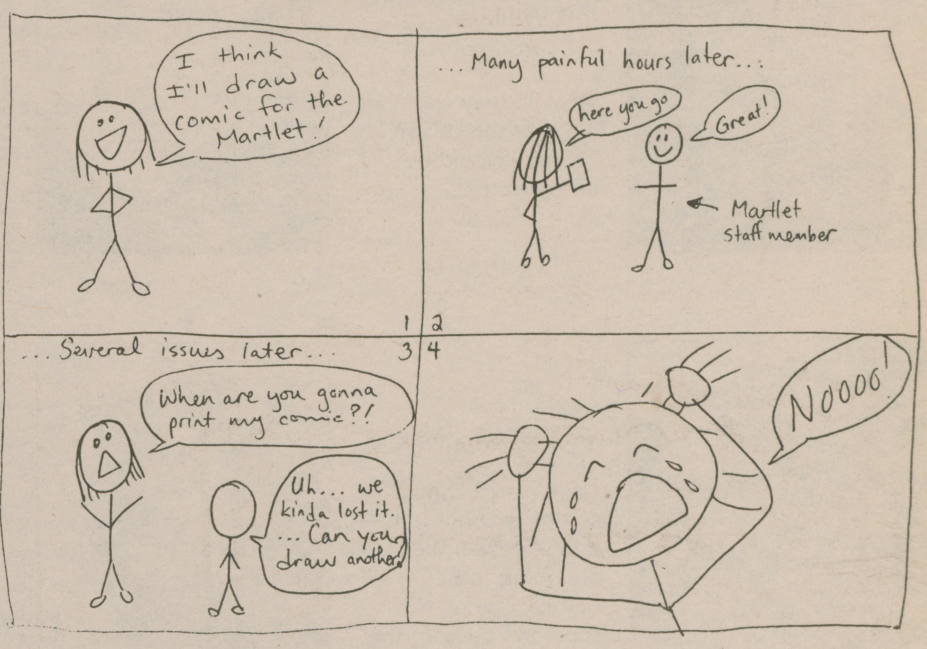
SAM AND FUZZY © 2001 BY SAM LOGAN
esrever@eudoramail.com
MORE FUN THAN A BARREL FULL OF MONKEYS! OUR COMIC IS FREQUENTLY REFFERED TO AS SUCH, FOR ALL WE KNOW! AND NOW, WE INTEND TO SHOW YOU WHY. BRING THEM IN, FUZZY!
HERE YA GO!
UH, FUZZY, THESE MONKEYS ARE DEAD.
YEAH, I KNOW! HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO STUFF A BARREL FULL OF LIVE, ANGRY MONKEYS?
HOW CAN ANYONE HAVE FUN WITH A BUNCH OF DEAD MONKEYS?!
I THINK WE SHOULD WEAR THEIR HOLLOWED-OUT CARCASSES AS SUITS AND ROMP AROUND!
I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...
OOH, ITS JUST LIKE WEARING A PAIR OF SNUGGLY JAMMIES FILLED WITH JELLO!
I BET THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT CALVIN KLEIN DOES IN HIS FREE TIME.
SAM AND FUZZY
NO ANIMALS WERE INJURED IN THE MAKING OF THIS COMIC STRIP. (SOME, HOWEVER, WERE SOMEWHAT DAMAGED EMOTIONALLY.)
SLOI!

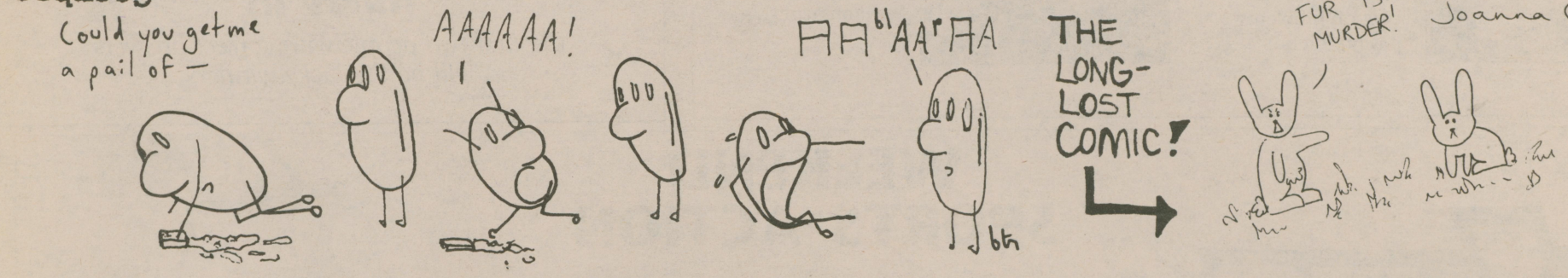


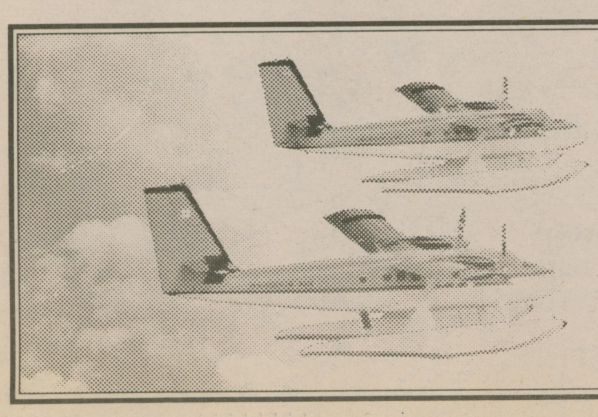




OUTSIDE LOOKING IN


I think I'll draw a comic for the Martlet!
...Many painful hours later...
here you go
Great!
Martlet staff member
...Several issues later...
When are you gonna print my comic?!
Uh... we kinda lost it. ...Can you draw another?
NOOOO!

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